



# Hikaru no Go

SHONENJUMP MANGA

Story by **Yumi Hotta** Art by **Takeshi Obata**  
Supervised by **Yukari Umezawa (5 Dan)**

volume **12**



You still  
haven't  
learned how  
to play?!



Takeshi Obata

Not yet.

—Takeshi Obata

It all began when Yumi Hotta played a pick-up game of go with her father-in-law. As she was learning how to play, Ms. Hotta thought it might be fun to create a story around the traditional board game. More confident in her storytelling abilities than her drawing skills, she submitted the beginnings of **Hikaru no Go** to **Weekly Shonen Jump's** Story King Award. The Story King Award is an award that picks the best story, manga, character design and youth (under 15) manga submissions every year in Japan. As fate would have it, Ms. Hotta's story (originally named, "**Kokonotsu no Hoshi**"), was a runner-up in the "Story" category of the Story King Award. Many years earlier, Takeshi Obata was a runner-up for the Tezuka Award, another Japanese manga contest sponsored by **Weekly Shonen Jump** and **Monthly Shonen Jump**. An editor assigned to Mr. Obata's artwork came upon Ms. Hotta's story and paired the two for a full-fledged manga about go. The rest is modern go history.



**HIKARU NO GO VOL. 12**  
**SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition**

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STORY BY YUMI HOTTA  
ART BY TAKESHI OBATA  
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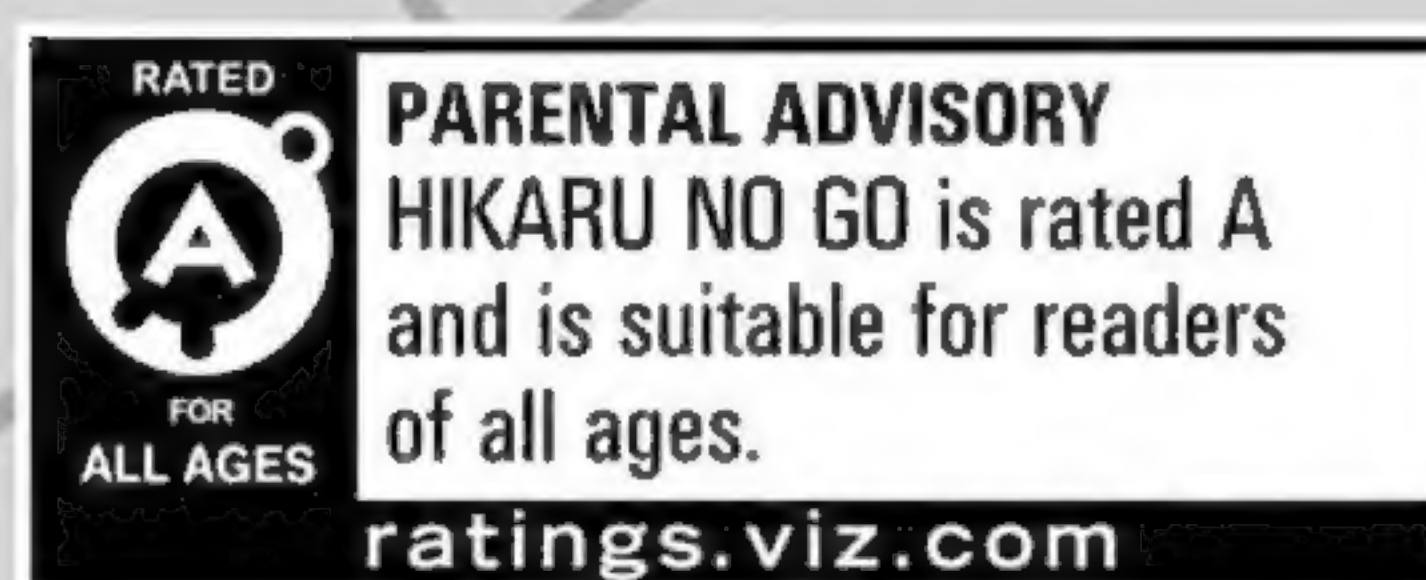
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# Hikaru no

**12**

## THE SHINSHODAN SERIES

STORY BY

**YUMI HOTTA**

ART BY

**TAKESHI OBATA**

Supervised by

**YUKARI UMEZAWA**

(5 Dan)





Hikaru Shindo

Fujiwara-no-Sai

● I n t r o d u c t i o n s ●



Koyo Toya Meijin



Akira Toya



Ogata 9-dan





**Kuwabara Hon'inbo**



**Saeki**



**Kosuke Ochi**



**Shirakawa 7-dan**



**Zama Oza**



**Morishita 9-dan**



**Yoshitaka Waya**

## The Story Thus Far

Hikaru Shindo discovers an old go board one day up in his grandfather's attic. The moment Hikaru touches the board, the spirit of Fujiwara-no-Sai, a genius go player from Japan's Heian Era, enters his consciousness. Sai's love of go inspires Hikaru, as does a meeting with the child prodigy Akira Toya — son of go master Toya Meijin. With his interest in go awakened, Hikaru now dreams of becoming a professional player.

After the preliminary rounds of the pro test, Hikaru gains more experience and skill playing games at various go salons. The main rounds of the pro test are before him—and with 27 rounds to be played, only the top three players will move on to become pros. By the 25th round, Ochi has guaranteed his spot by maintaining his one-loss record. But the other two spots are up for grabs—and among the contenders are Waya with two losses, Hikaru with three, and Isumi and Honda both with four.

In round 26, Hikaru goes up against his rival Waya, and manages to come back from behind. Honda loses and thus eliminates his chance of going pro. In the final match, Hikaru goes up against Ochi, who has been receiving guidance from the younger Toya specifically aimed at defeating Hikaru. Hikaru, however, takes advantage of the slightest weakness in Ochi's game and manages to take the win. Waya also wins, which eliminates Isumi's hopes for a playoff. After 26 grueling rounds of play, Hikaru, Waya and Ochi have made it to the pros!



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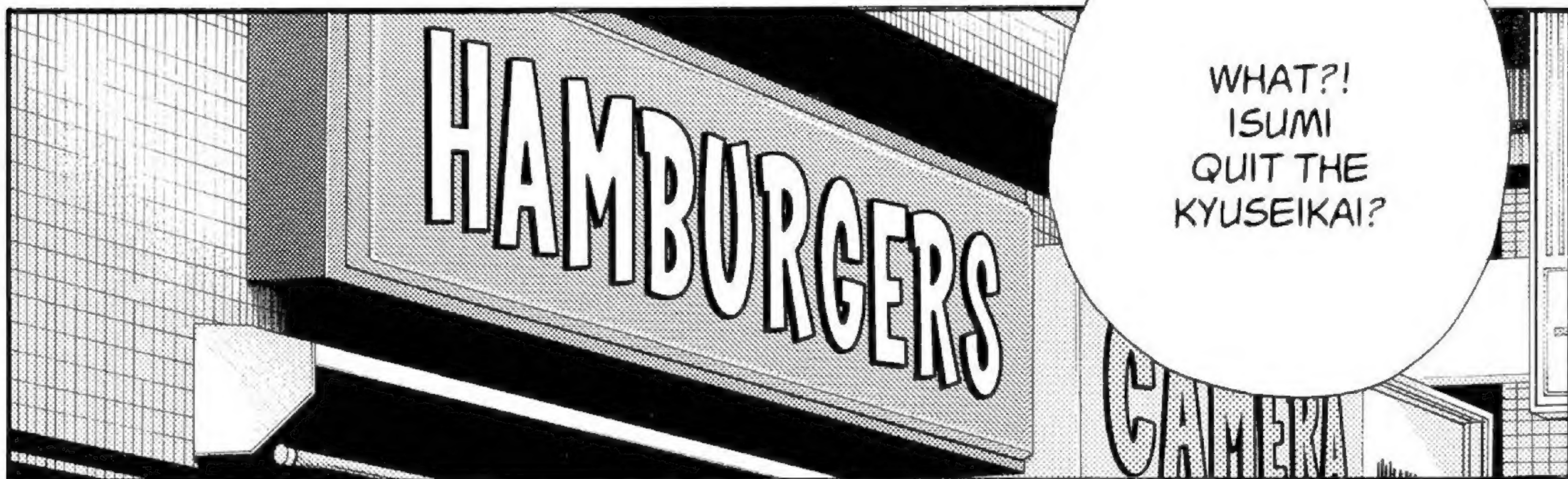
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Game 97 "The Awaiting Pros"





WHAT?!  
ISUMI  
QUIT THE  
KYUSEIKAI?



EVEN PEOPLE  
WHO PLAN TO  
MOVE ON  
USUALLY STICK  
AROUND UNTIL  
MARCH.

AND THAT'S  
NOT ALL.  
HE QUIT  
BEING AN  
INSEI.



DROPPING  
OUT OF THE  
INSEI AND THE  
KYUSEIKAI...  
WHAT'S HE  
GONNA DO?  
WAYA, HAVE  
YOU TALKED  
TO HIM?

BUT ISUMI'S  
BEEN GOING TO  
THE KYUSEIKAI  
FOR A REAL  
LONG TIME,  
RIGHT?!





THAT'S WHEN  
SHINODA  
SENSEI TOLD  
ME THAT  
ISUMI QUIT.



...SO I WENT  
TO THE GO  
ASSOCIATION  
ON AN INSEI  
GAME DAY.

WELL, I  
THOUGHT IT  
WOULD BE  
AWKWARD TO  
TALK TO HIM  
ON THE  
PHONE...



WHAT?!

SENSEI  
SAID THIS  
MIGHT BE  
BEST FOR  
ISUMI...



HE MAY HAVE  
DROPPED OUT FROM  
HERE AND THE  
KYUSEIKAI, BUT  
STUDYING GO ISN'T  
JUST ABOUT  
PLAYING GAMES.

AND AT HIS  
LEVEL, IT'S  
ENOUGH FOR  
HIM TO JUST  
REVIEW GAME  
RECORDS.

PERHAPS THIS IS  
A TIME FOR QUIET  
INTROSPECTION...

SOMETIMES  
IT'S A GOOD  
THING TO GO  
IT ALONE.





SENSEI SAID  
THAT ISUMI  
ISN'T DONE  
YET...



WHAT IF  
ISUMI  
GIVES UP  
FOREVER?!

WHAT  
THE HECK  
IS HE  
TALKING  
ABOUT?



HE SAID THAT  
ISUMI KNOWS  
THAT HE HASN'T  
TAKEN HIS GAME  
AS FAR AS IT  
CAN GO.

AND HE  
REALLY  
MEANT IT.



.....

HE SAID THAT  
FROM HERE ON  
OUT, I'LL HAVE TO  
WORK HARDER  
THAN I EVER HAVE  
BEFORE.

...TO KEEP MY  
NOSE OUT  
OF ISUMI'S  
BUSINESS.

THEN  
SENSEI  
TOLD ME...





ANYWAY,  
I THOUGHT  
I SHOULD  
TEACH YOU  
HOW TO BE  
A GAME  
RECORDER.



That goes  
for you too,  
Hikaru!



I GUESS  
THEY DON'T  
ASK KIDS  
WHO'RE STILL  
GOING TO  
SCHOOL,  
THOUGH...

SOME-  
TIMES  
YOU'LL GET  
ASKED TO  
DO IT.

A GAME  
RECORDER?

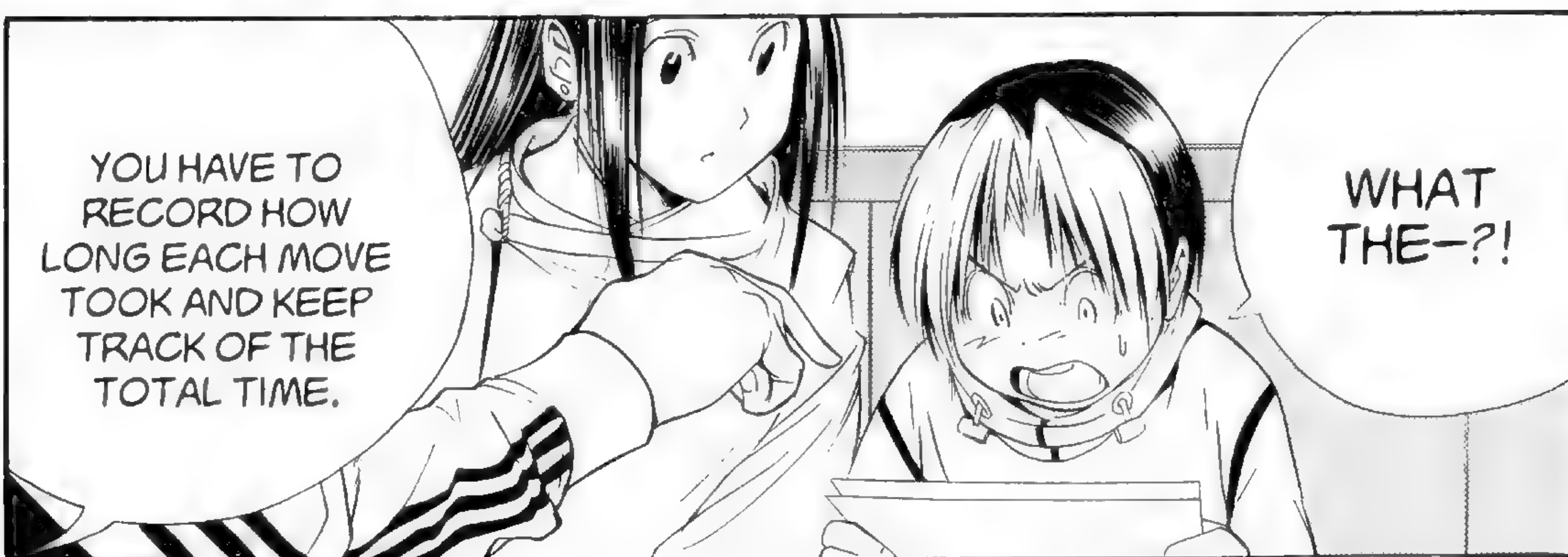


YOU ALSO  
HAVE TO  
RECORD THE  
TIME.

BUT I ALREADY  
KNOW HOW TO  
RECORD  
GAMES!

STARTING  
WITH THE THIRD  
ROUND OF  
PRELIMINARY  
MATCHES, ALL  
THE MOVES ARE  
RECORDED BY  
AN OFFICIAL  
GAME  
RECORDER.









At last,  
Hikaru takes  
his first step  
into the  
professional  
world of go.



IT'S FOR  
YOUR  
OWN  
GOOD!  
I'M JUST  
TRYING  
TO HELP!

WHY'D YOU  
HAVE TO  
SHOW ME  
THIS?!



PLAYING  
GAMES IS  
MORE  
IMPORTANT  
THAN STUFF  
LIKE THIS.



I'LL GO UP  
AGAINST A  
WHOLE BUNCH OF  
DIFFERENT  
PLAYERS, RIGHT?  
LIKE YOU, AND  
SAEKI, AND...AND  
EVEN TOYA  
MEIJIN, RIGHT?  
RIGHT?



HOW  
SHOULD I  
KNOW?!

WAYA, DO YOU  
KNOW WHEN I'LL  
BE ABLE TO PLAY  
TOYA MEIJIN?









ME!

WE'RE IN  
THE SAME  
WORLD  
NOW, SO  
EVENTUALLY  
I'LL GET TO  
PLAY THEM  
ALL.



Yes,  
indeed!

BUT I'LL  
STILL BE IN  
THERE!  
I CAN PLAY  
TOYA AND  
EVEN HIS  
FATHER!



C'MON,  
GET  
REAL!

AND I WANNA  
PLAY OGATA  
9-DAN AND  
THAT OLD  
HON'INBO  
GUY TOO!

I WANNA  
PLAY AGAINST  
MURAKAMI  
2-DAN! I WENT  
UP AGAINST HIM  
IN THE YOUNG  
LIONS  
TOURNAMENT.





AKIRA  
TOYA!

BUT MOST  
OF ALL,  
I WANNA  
PLAY  
TOYA-

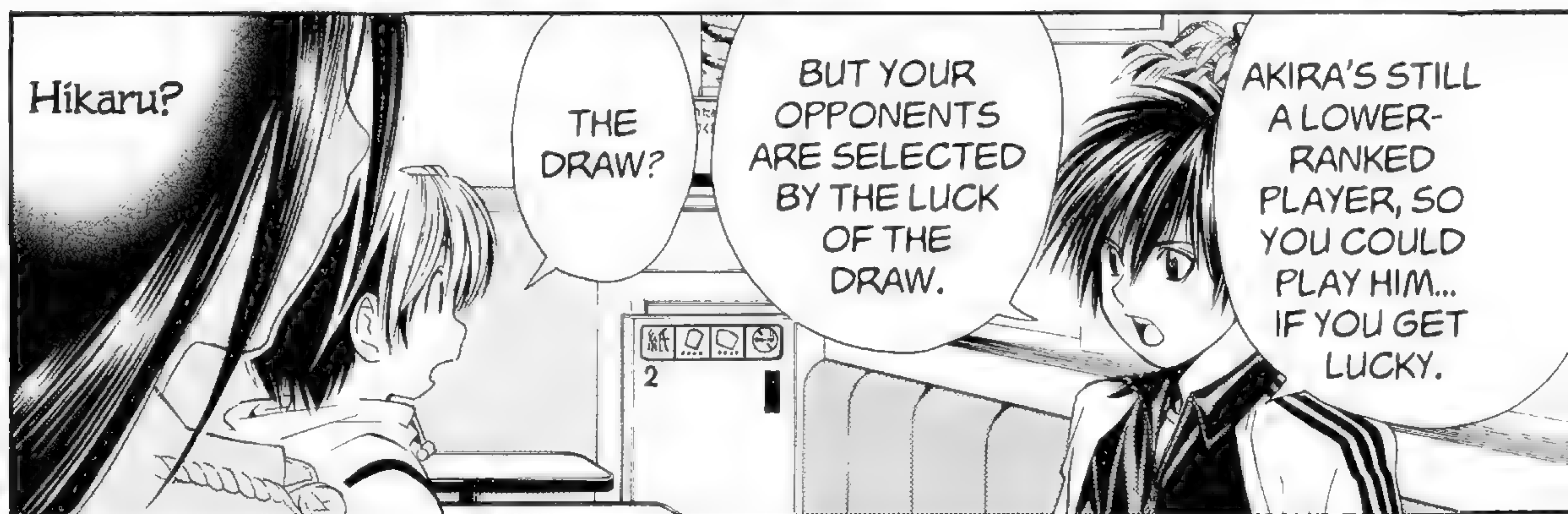


What  
about...

Hikaru...



...me?



Hikaru?

THE  
DRAW?

BUT YOUR  
OPPONENTS  
ARE SELECTED  
BY THE LUCK  
OF THE  
DRAW.

AKIRA'S STILL  
A LOWER-  
RANKED  
PLAYER, SO  
YOU COULD  
PLAY HIM...  
IF YOU GET  
LUCKY.



BUT I'M  
STILL IN THERE!  
I'LL BE ABLE TO  
PLAY THEM  
EVENTUALLY!

I TOLD YOU,  
YOU'RE  
YEARS  
AWAY FROM  
THE TOP  
PLAYERS!

OH! AND  
I'LL BE ABLE TO  
PLAY FOR REAL  
AGAINST  
SHIRAKAWA  
SENSEI AND  
MORISHITA  
SENSEI TOO!



You.  
Not I...

That is correct,  
Hikaru. You are  
now a part of  
this world of go  
players.



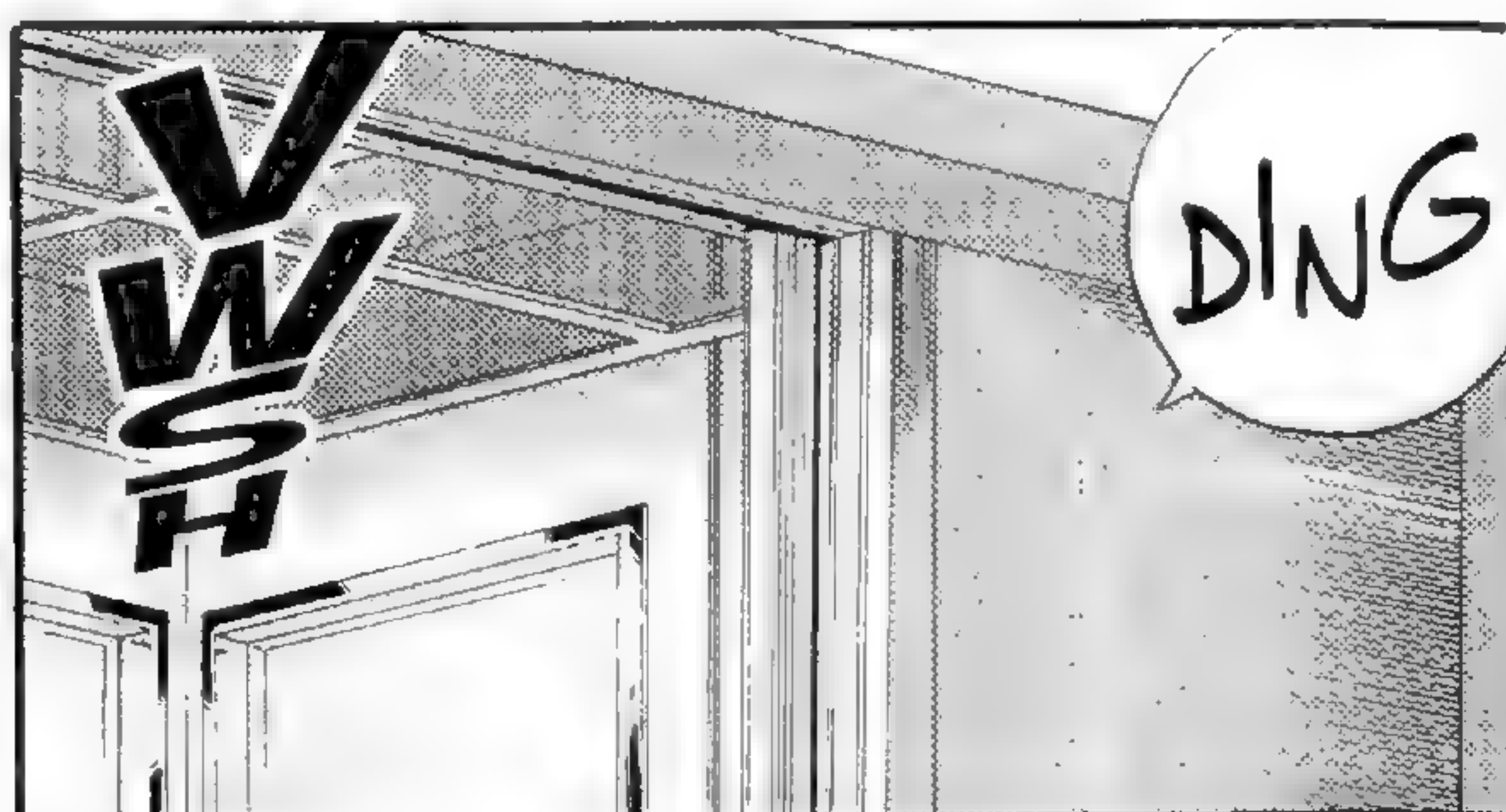
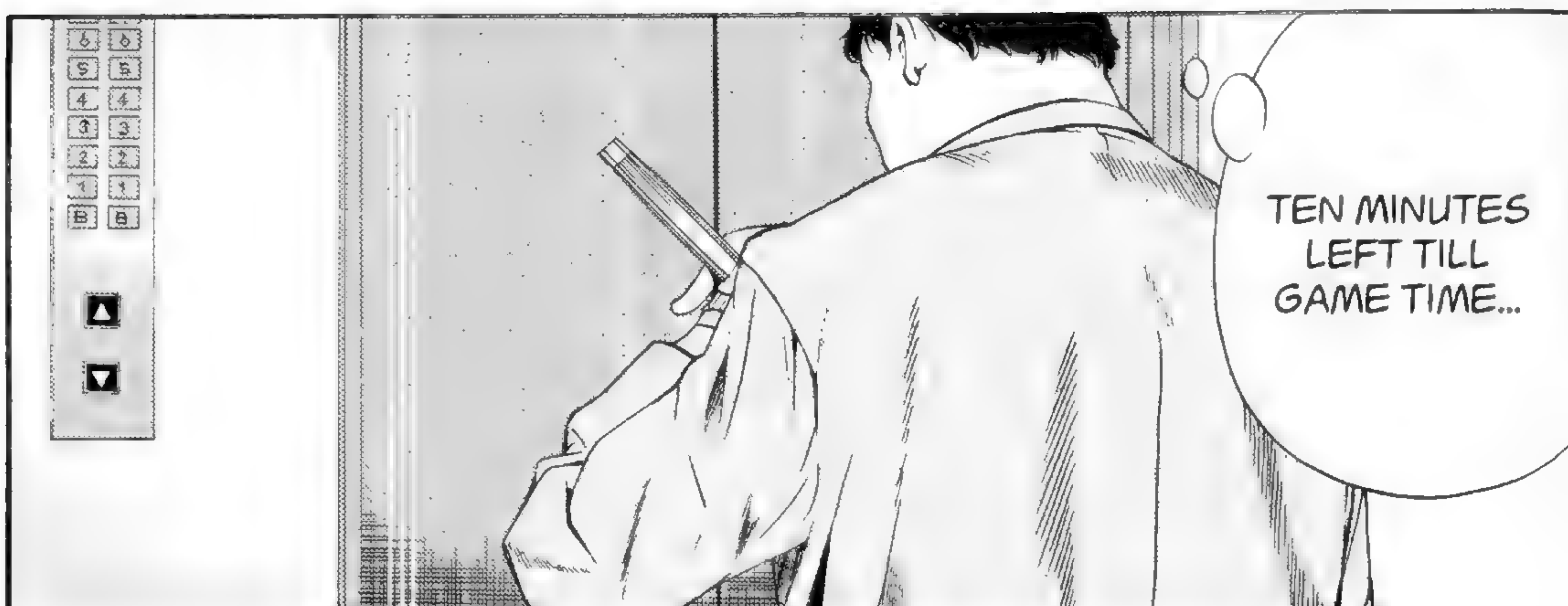
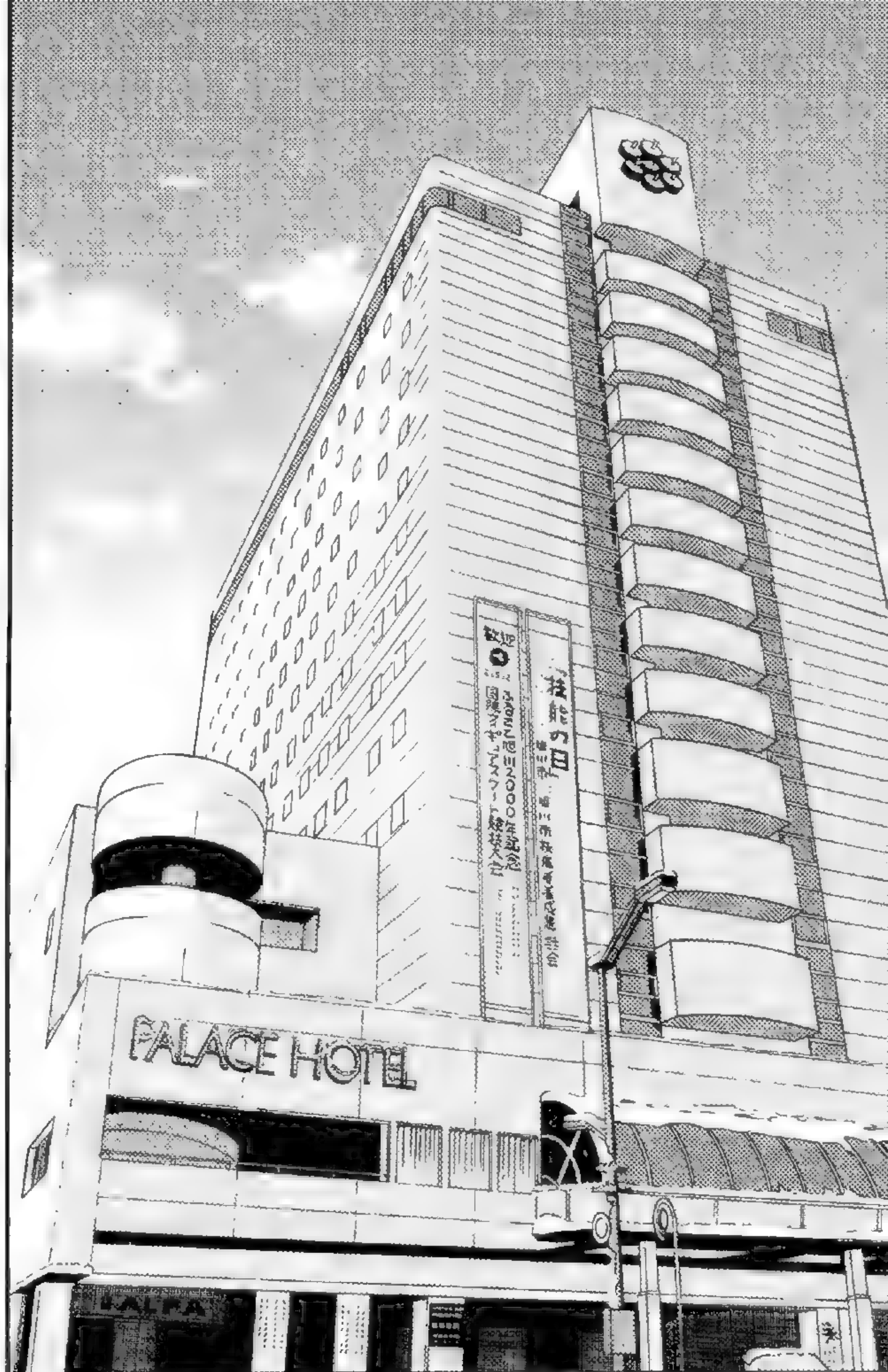
Will you no  
longer allow  
me to  
play...?



Hikaru...



















THANK  
YOU.



CONGRAT-  
ULATIONS,  
TOYA  
SENSEI.

OH, BY THE  
WAY... I DIDN'T  
GET A CHANCE  
TO CONGRATU-  
LATE YOU FOR  
DEFENDING  
THE MEIJIN  
TITLE FOR THE  
SIXTH TIME...



MAYBE  
YOU'RE  
RIGHT.  
PERHAPS  
FATIGUE DID  
GET THE  
BETTER OF  
ME DURING  
THE KISEI  
TOURNA-  
MENT...

BUT YOU LET  
THE KISEI TITLE  
MATCH SLIP FROM  
YOUR GRASP...  
SEEMS TO ME YOU  
SCHEDULE TOO  
MANY GAMES AT  
ONCE. YOU'RE  
STRETCHING  
YOURSELF TOO  
THIN.



IT'S  
YOUR  
SON  
WHO'S AT  
THE TOP  
OF HIS  
GAME.  
I UNDER-  
STAND  
HE'S STILL  
UNDE-  
FEATED.

SNAP

HMPH!

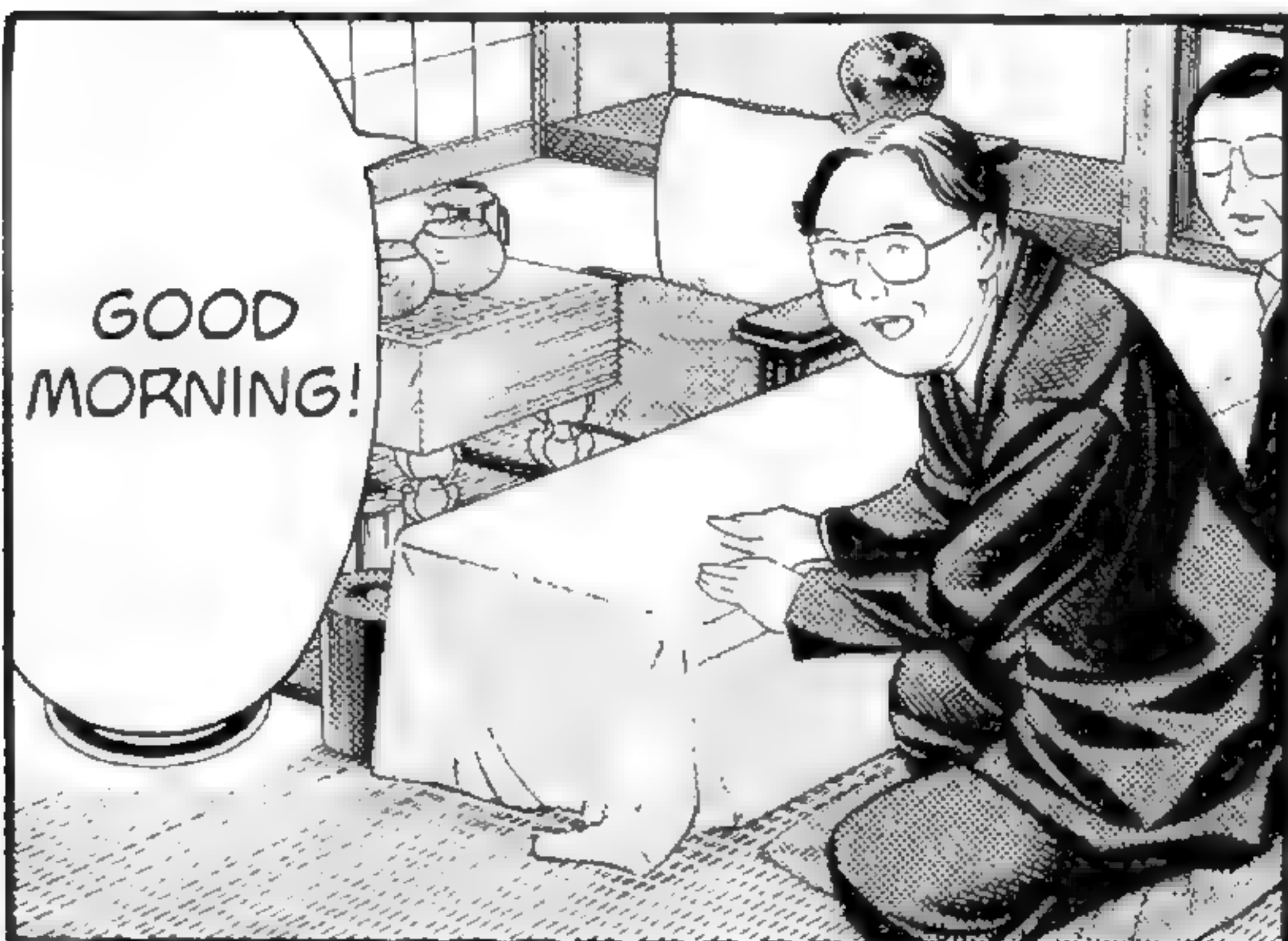
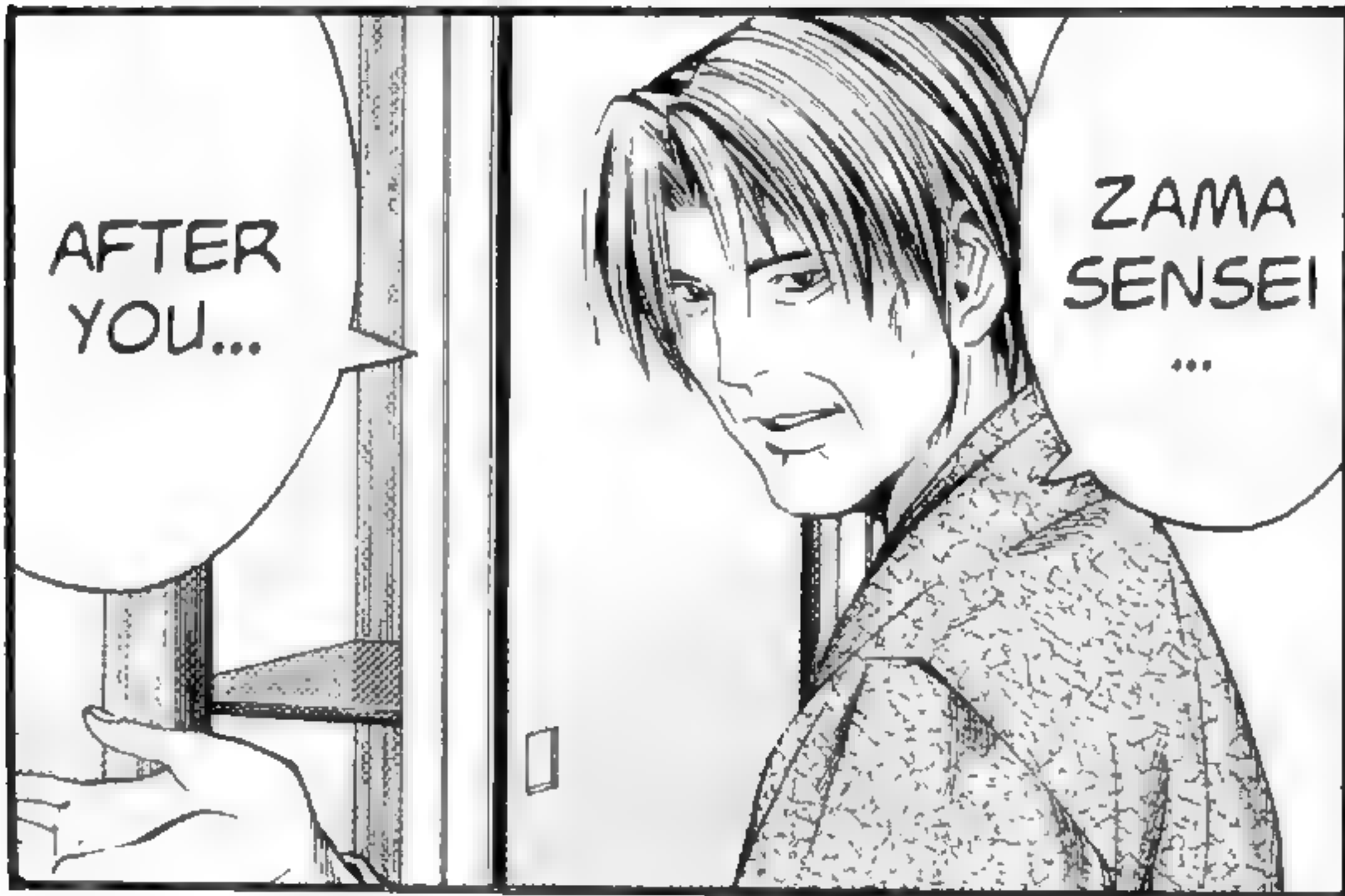
VURRR

HOWEVER,  
I'M READY TO  
TAKE YOU ON  
TODAY—WELL  
RESTED IN  
BOTH MIND  
AND BODY!

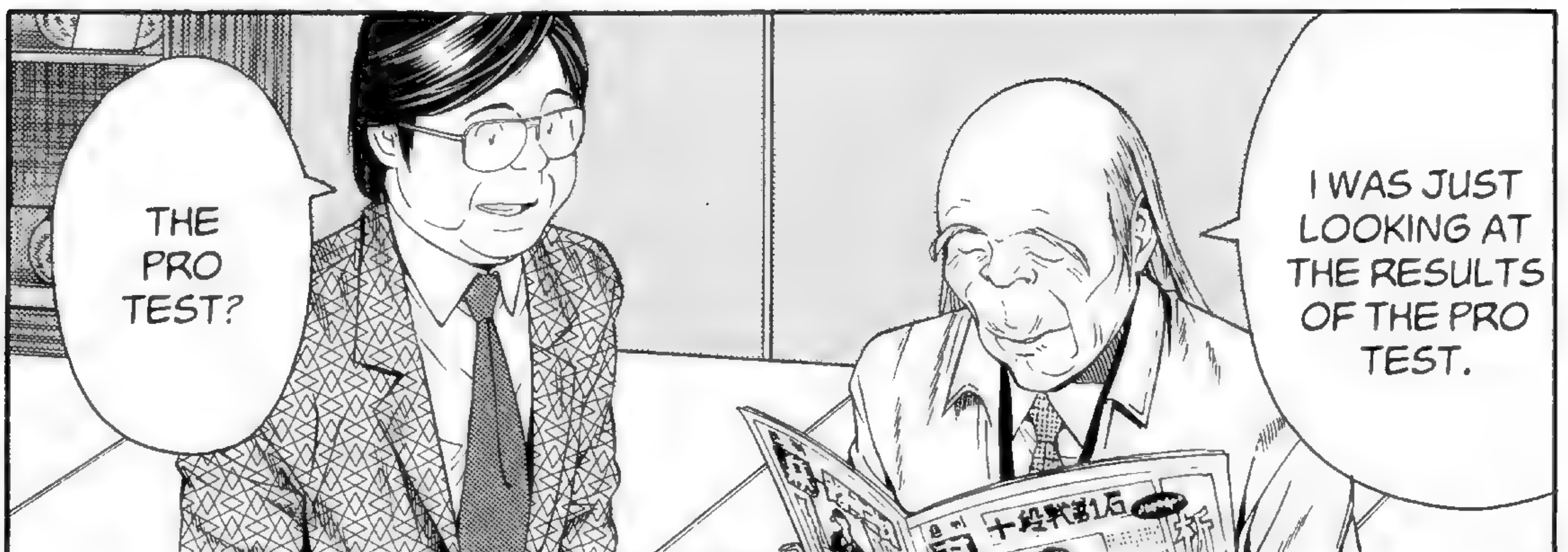














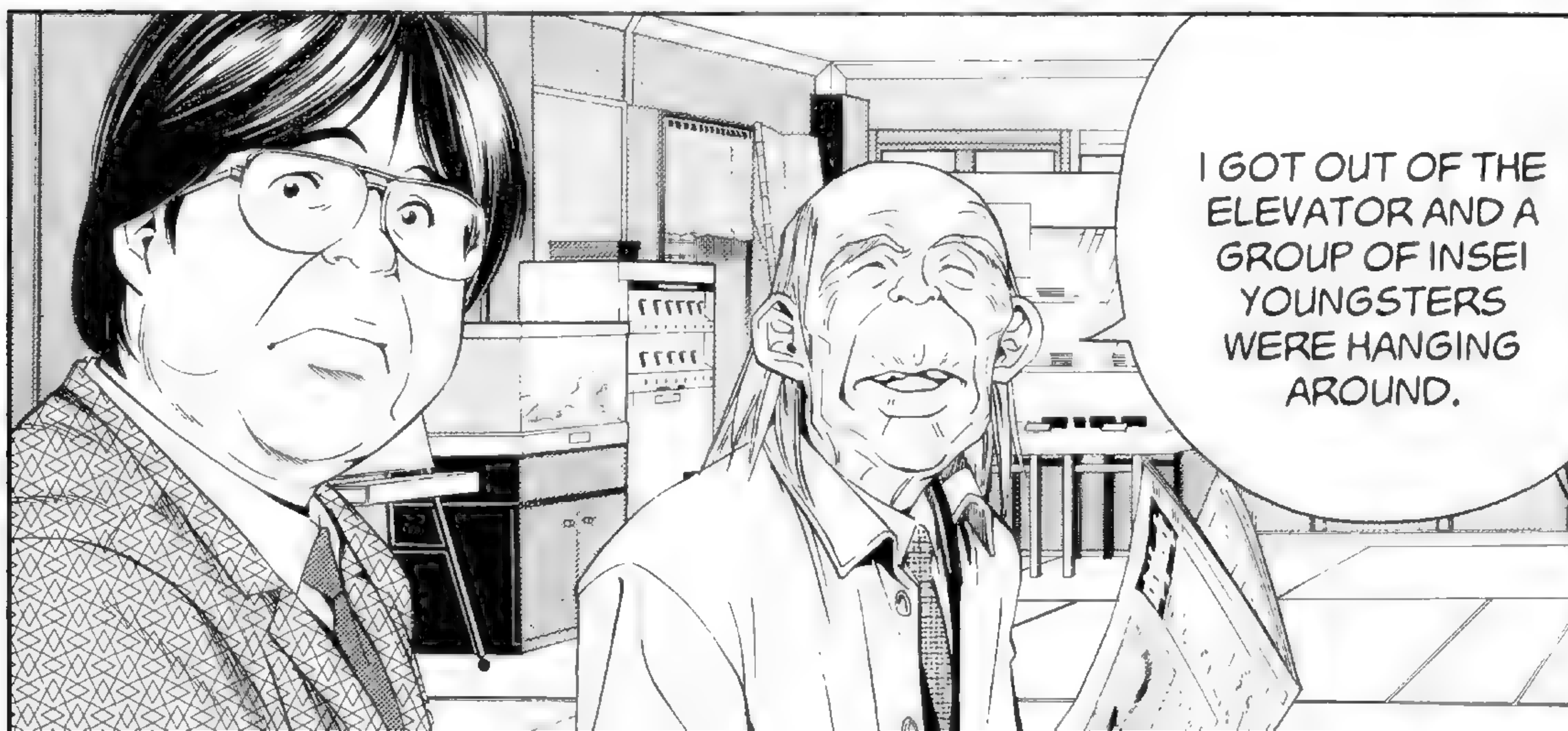
READ  
THIS  
WAY



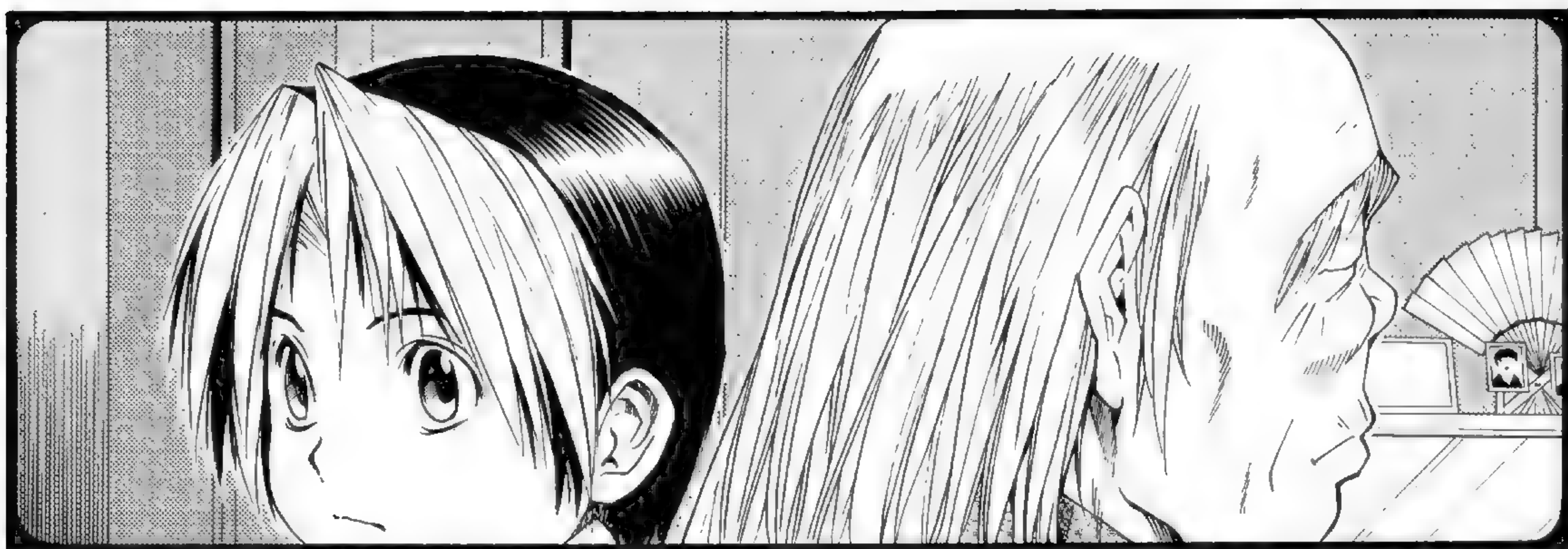
智康介(13)



和谷











HE MAY BE  
PART OF  
THAT NEW  
WAVE  
OGATA WAS  
TALKING  
ABOUT...



I SENSED  
SOMETHING  
EXTRAORDINARY  
IN HIM...

EXTRAORDI-  
NARY? WELL,  
I LOOK  
FORWARD TO  
SEEING HIM  
PLAY THEN.



YES,  
INDEED.



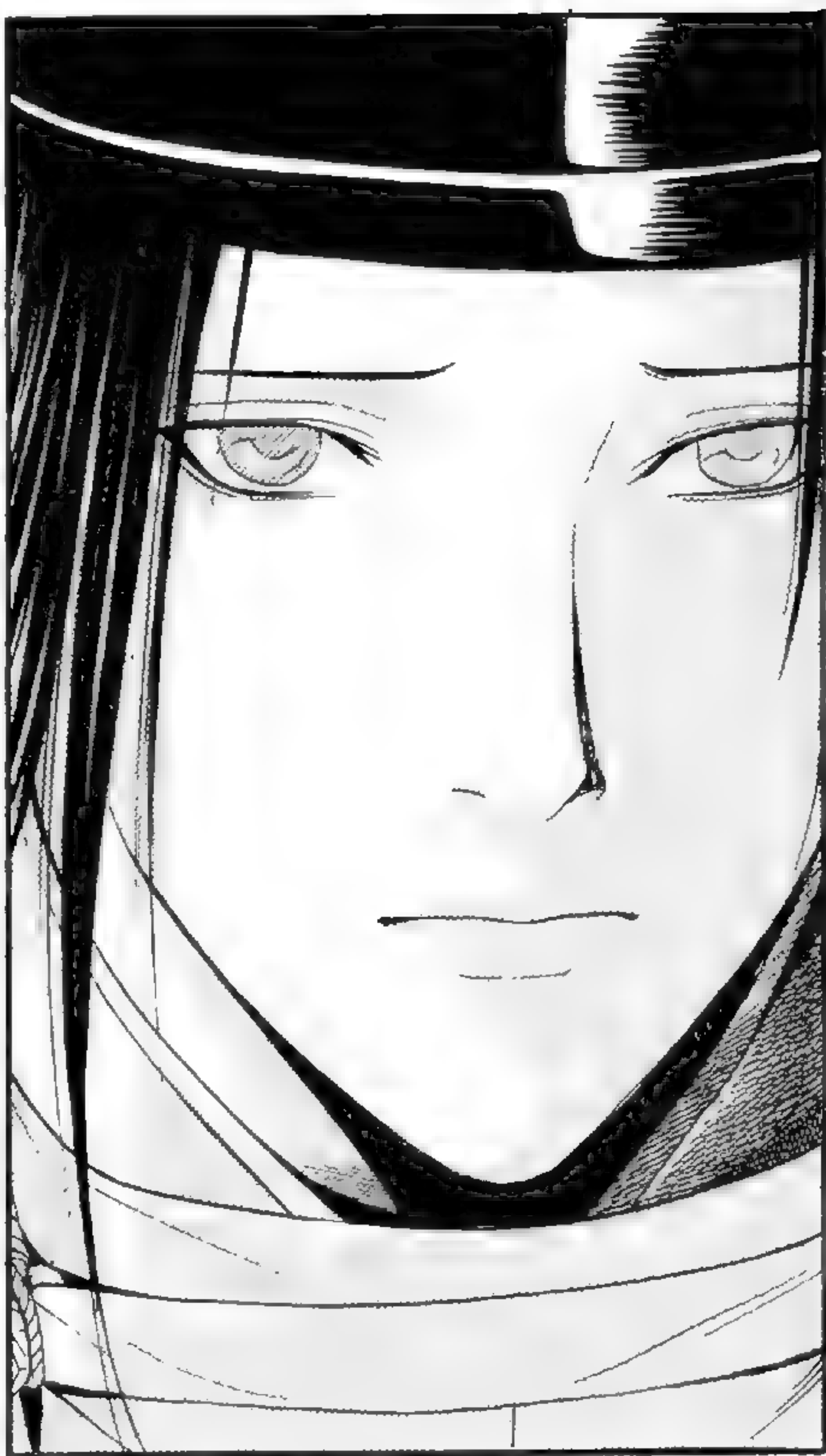






And like him,  
they await his  
arrival.

Hikaru can't  
wait to play  
against the  
pros out  
there.



They await  
Hikaru's  
game, not  
mine...





12,794  
SUBMISSIONS  
RECEIVED!

# HAIKU CONTEST WINNERS!



TAIKYOKU-  
CHUU  
JISHIN GA  
OKITAYO  
SHINDO GO

DURING A GO  
GAME  
AN EARTHQUAKE  
SHOOK AND  
RATTLED  
SEISMIC SCALE  
OF FIVE  
(MANNAMI  
SUZUKI)

Comment: Japan  
Meteorological  
Agency seismic  
intensity scale



KINOKO KAKI  
MEGANE TO  
SEN KAKI  
OCHI KANSEI

FIRST DRAW A  
MUSHROOM  
THEN DRAW  
GLASSES AND  
SOME LINES  
THERE YOU HAVE  
OCHI  
(TADAYUKI  
HONMA)

Comment: Now I  
know how to draw  
Ochi! (Obata)



THERE  
WERE SO  
MANY GREAT  
ENTRIES  
IT WAS  
DIFFICULT  
TO PICK OUT  
WINNERS.  
THANK YOU  
ALL FOR  
SENDING IN  
YOUR HAIKU!



SENNEN NO  
INISHIE NO  
WAZA  
IMA NI SAE

A THOUSAND-  
YEAR-OLD  
TALENT FROM THE  
ANCIENT PAST  
HERE IN THE PRESENT  
(YUMI TOYODA)

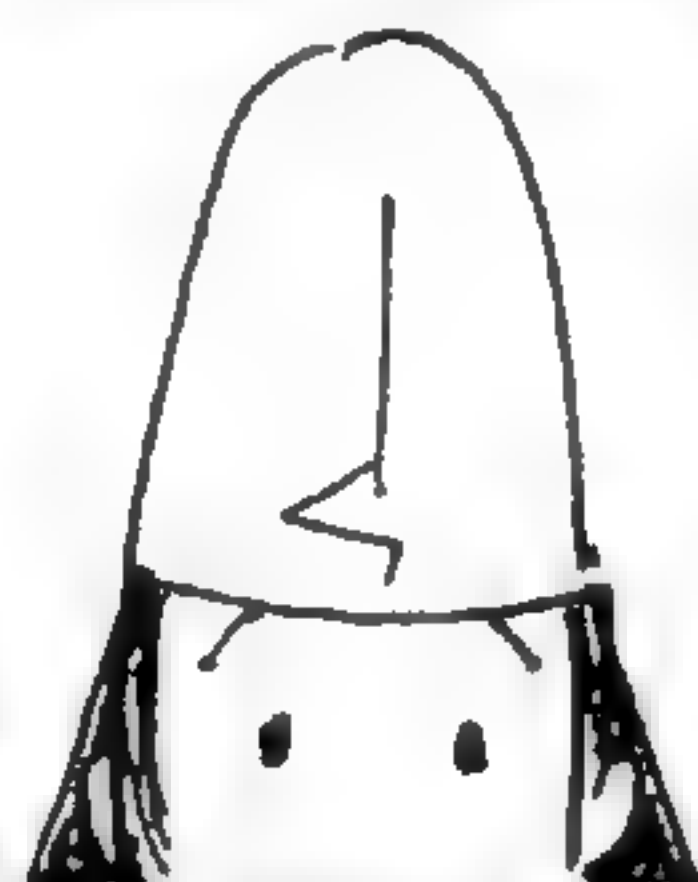
Comment: Amazing!  
Makes Sai sound  
really cool! (Hotta)



ONNA DATO  
OMOTTEITA  
NONI  
AH, SHOKKU

THOUGHT HE  
WAS A GIRL  
BUT I FOUND OUT  
THAT HE'S NOT  
AH, WHAT A BIG  
SHOCK!  
(ATSUSHI MIYUKI)

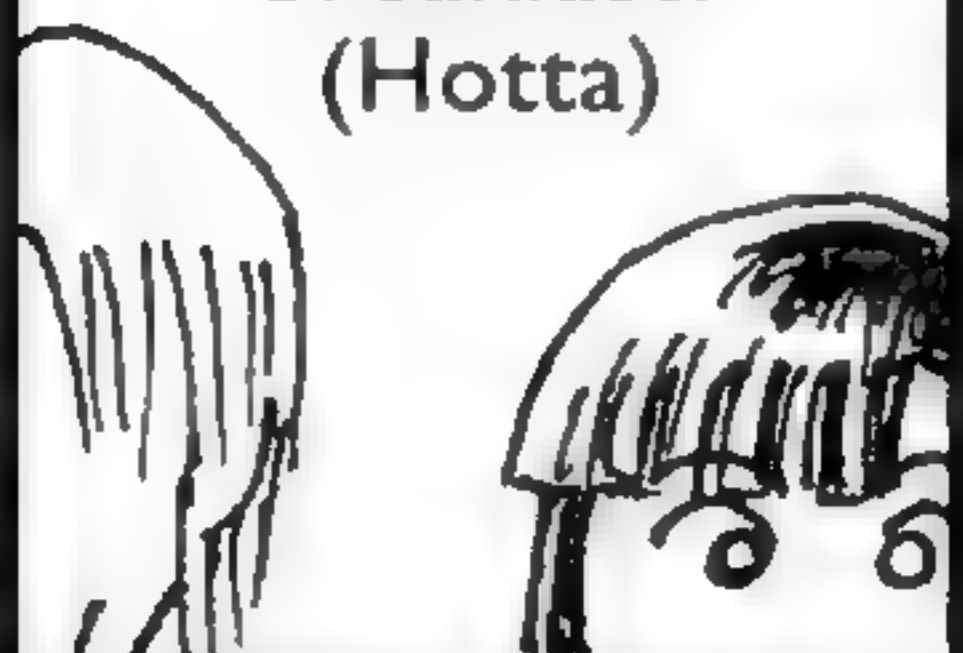
Comment: Does  
it matter what  
gender he is?  
>laugh< (Obata)



NIHONMA NI  
UTSU OTO  
RIN TO  
TOUYA-KE NO  
ASA

JAPANESE-STYLE  
ROOM  
SOUNDS OF GO  
STONES BOLDLY  
PLAYED  
TOYA'S HOUSE,  
MORNING  
(RYOTA SATO)

Comment:  
Do they have rice  
and natto for  
breakfast?  
(Hotta)



HIMITSU DAYO  
TANSU NI  
IPPAI  
SHIROI  
SUUTSU

IT'S A BIG  
SECRET  
THERE HIDDEN IN  
HIS CLOSET  
A BUNCH OF  
WHITE SUITS  
(KARUKARODON)

Comment:  
I'd like to see  
him in traditional  
Japanese clothes.  
(Hotta)



\* Due to the ambiguity in how to pronounce the characters for entrants' names, some last names have been freely interpreted - Ed. note.





Game 98: "The Shinshodan Series" 19



WHADDAYA  
MEAN YOU  
CAME TO TELL  
US YOU MADE  
IT TO THE  
PROS?!  
WE ALREADY  
KNOW THAT!



WHY DIDN'T  
YA COME  
SOONER?!  
AFTER ALL,  
YOU OWE IT  
ALL TO ME!

WHY DO I  
OWE IT ALL  
TO YOU,  
MR. KAWAI?!











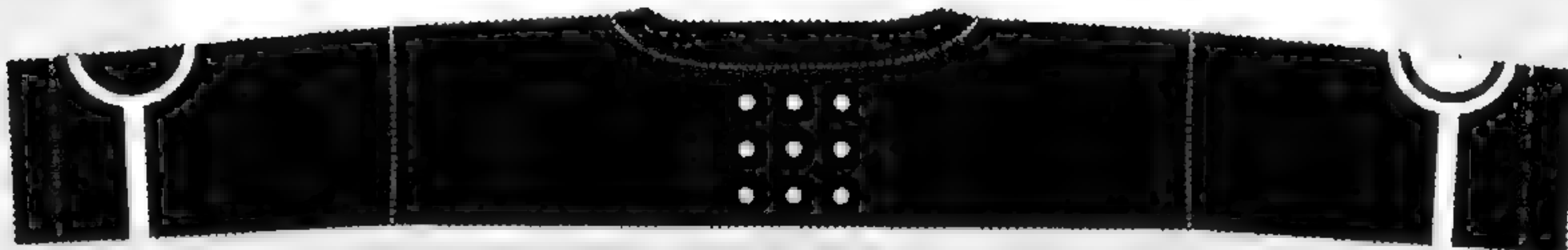


**T-SHIRT** DESIGNED BY  
**TAKESHI OBATA**  
THE ONE THAT HIKARU WEARS!

THIS  
T-SHIRT  
WAS  
SOLD  
AT  
JUMP  
FESTA  
2001



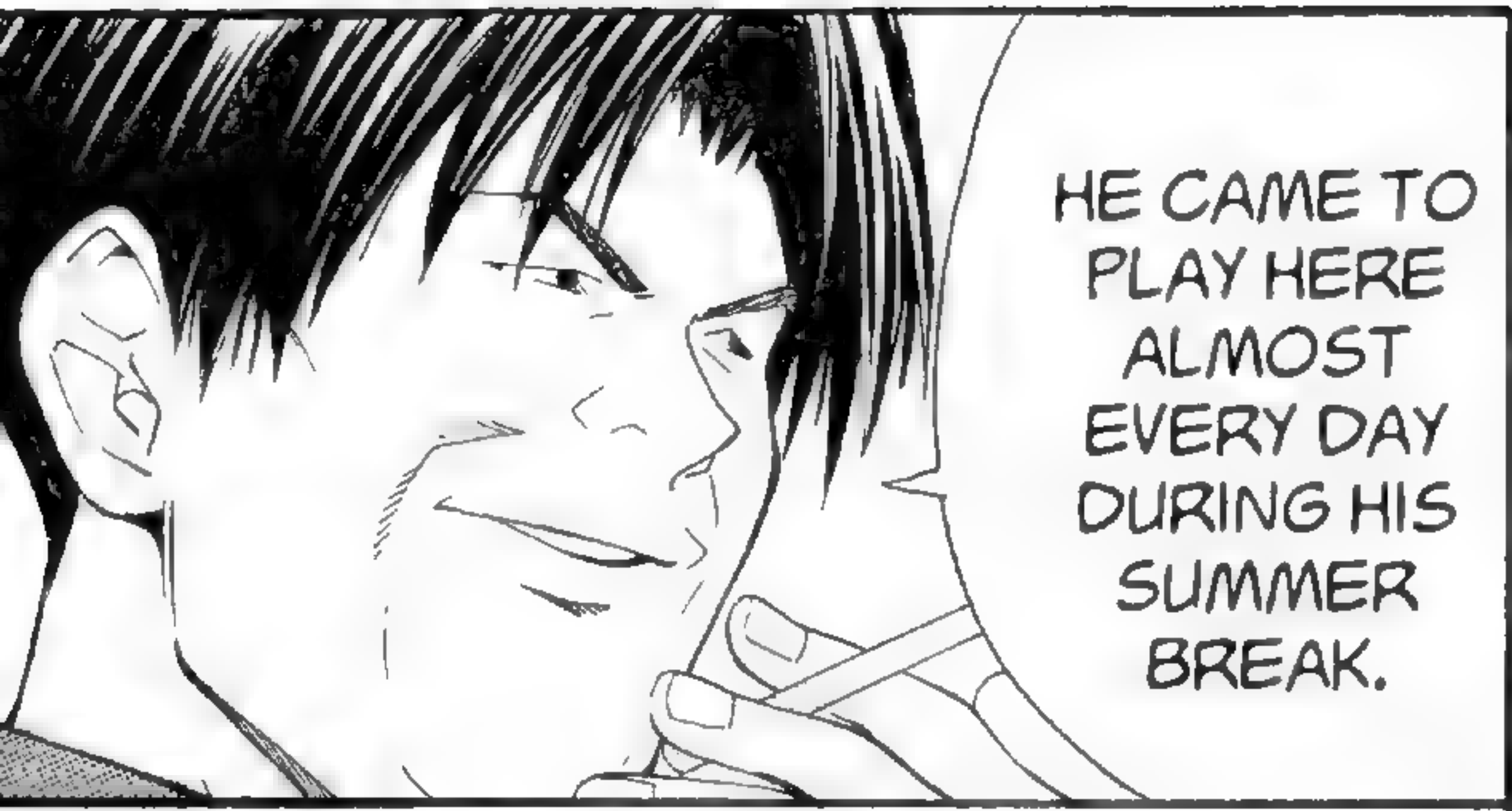
FRONT



BACK

Designed by Takeshi Obata





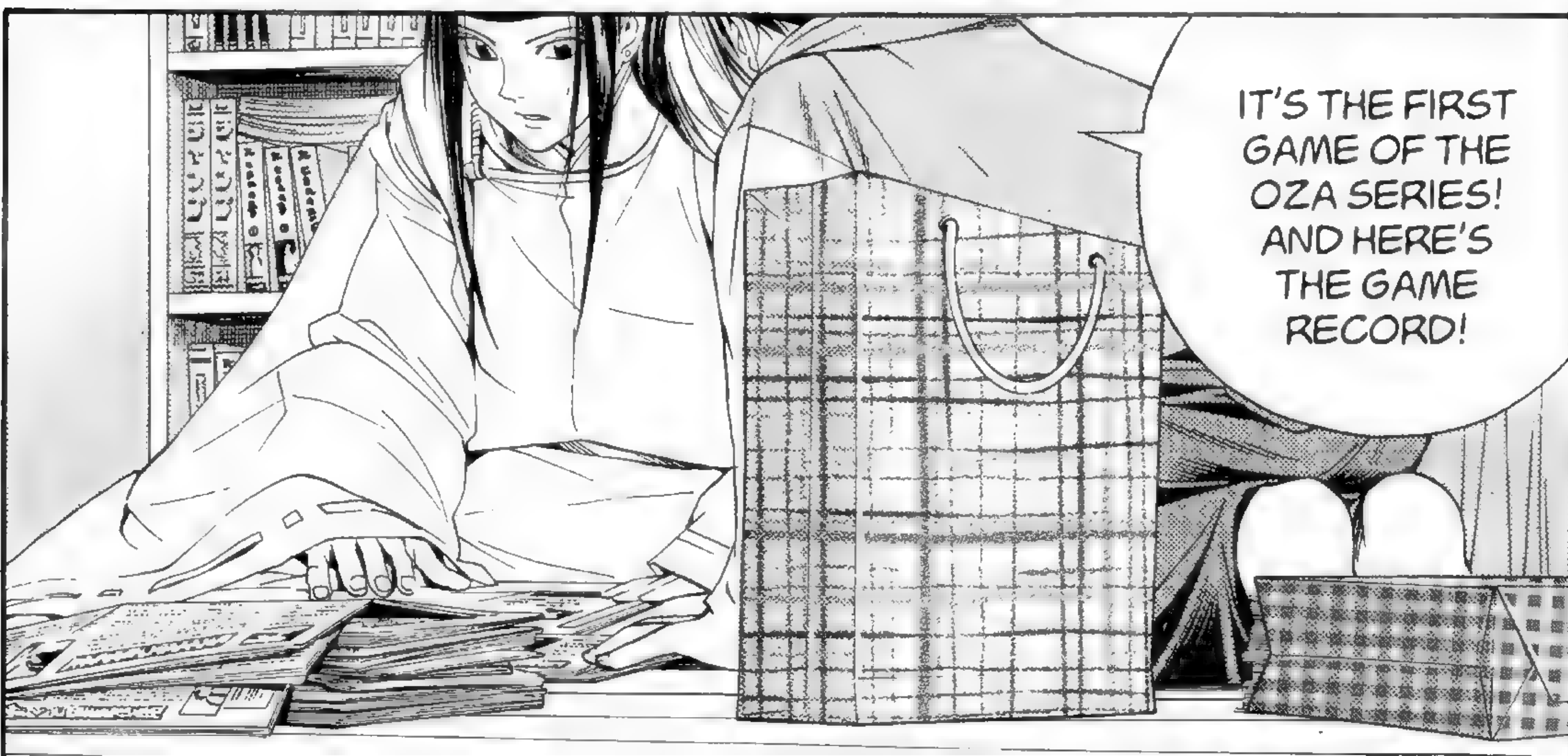














FLP











Hikaru!  
Don't toss  
it down on  
the page  
I'm looking  
at!

WHAT  
ELSE IS IN  
HERE?



THIS IS  
FROM  
AUGUST,  
AND THIS  
IS FROM  
MAY.

THE  
DATES SKIP  
AROUND  
WITH THE  
REST OF  
THESE.



THAT'S  
PRETTY  
FAR  
BACK.

THE ONE  
ON THE  
BOTTOM'S  
FROM  
JANUARY!



SOR-RY!

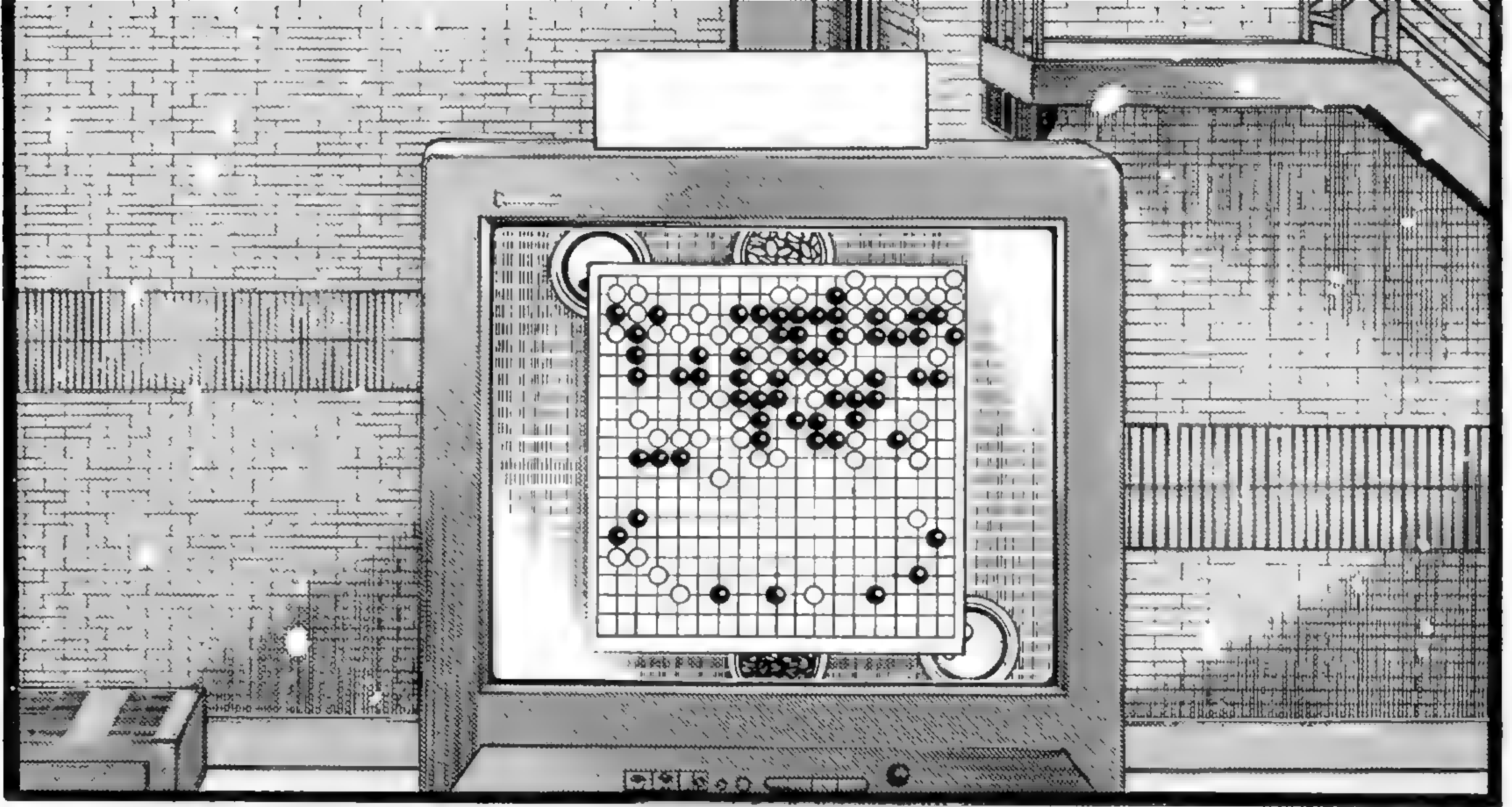


HEY...













I'M  
GETTING  
PSYCHED!

THE  
SHINSHODAN  
SERIES...I  
ALMOST  
FORGOT  
ABOUT IT.



THIS IS THE  
GAME WHERE  
MY CAREER IS  
GOING TO  
BEGIN...



Hikaru,  
let me  
see that  
one too!



.....

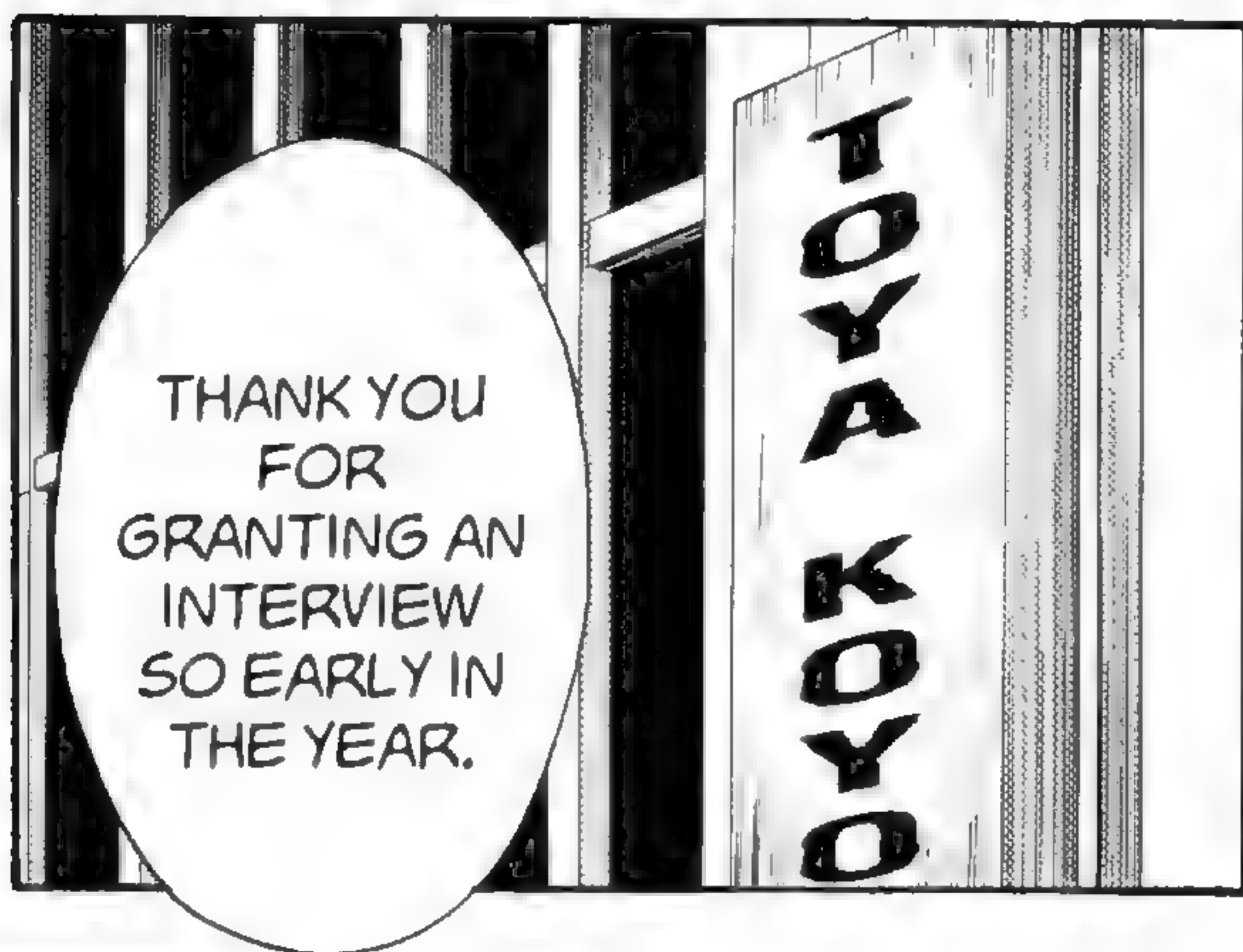
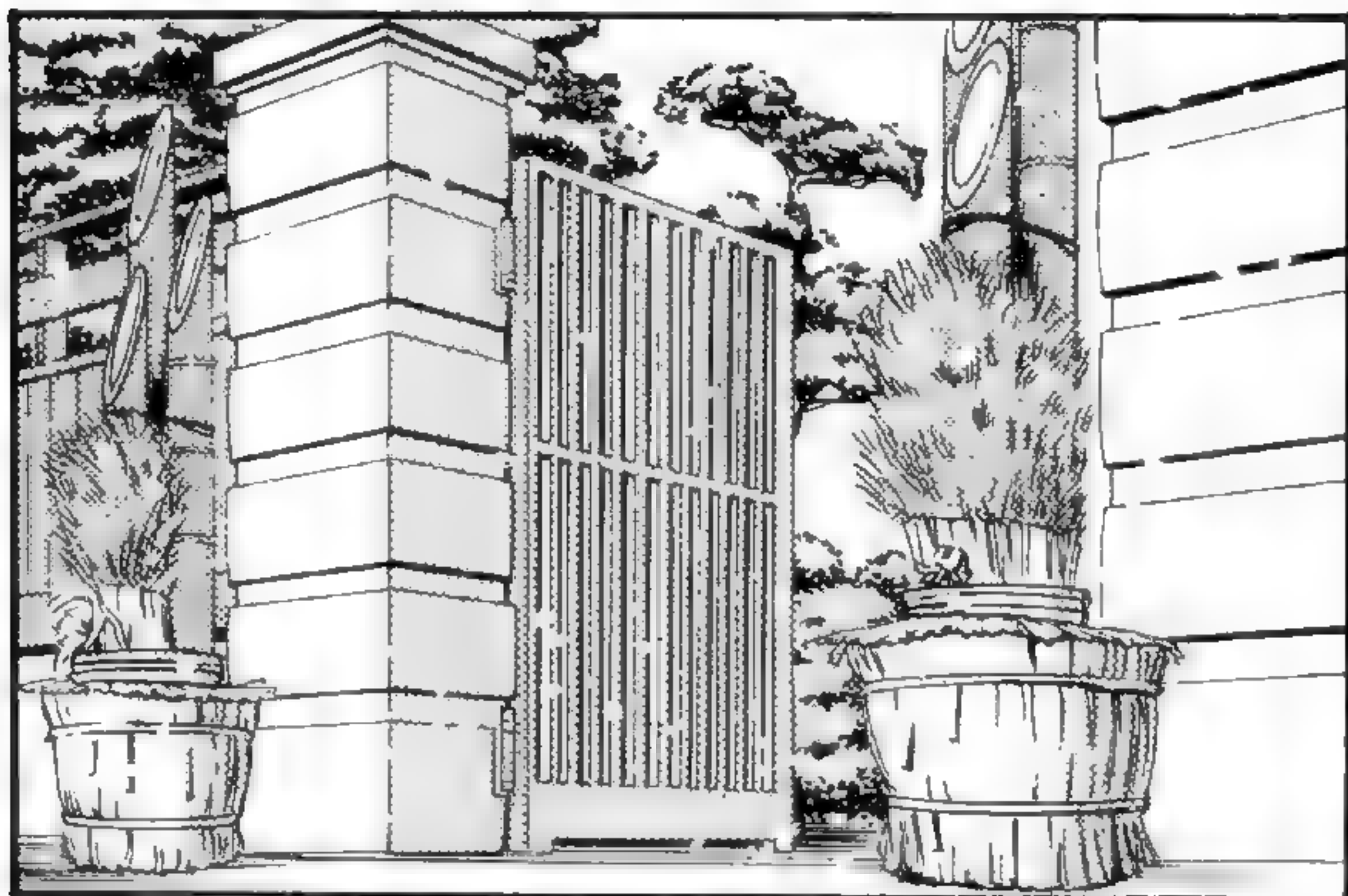


...THE  
NEW  
YEAR.

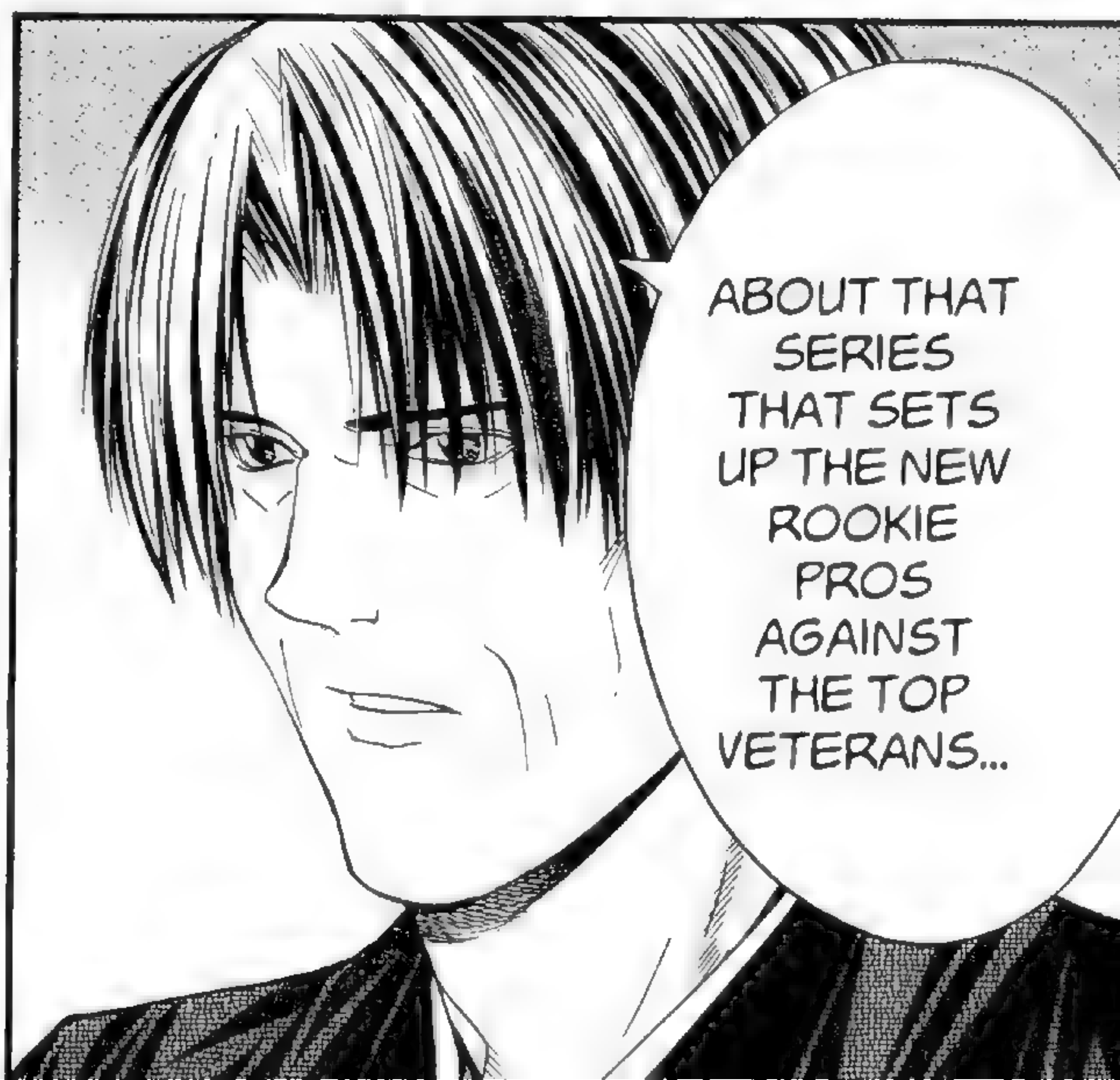


AT THE  
BEGINNING  
OF THE NEW  
YEAR...





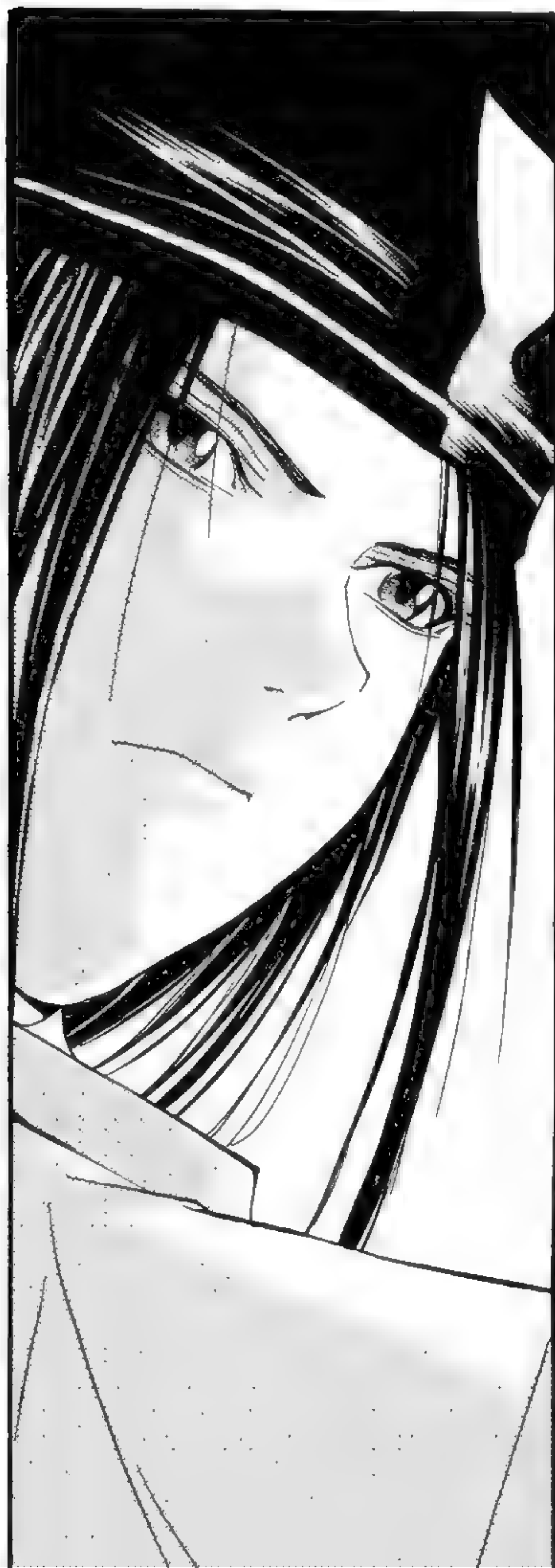




























YOU  
KNOW-IN  
THE  
SHIN-  
SHODAN  
SERIES.

I GET TO  
PLAY  
AGAINST  
TOYA  
MEIJIN!



DID YOU  
HEAR  
THAT,  
SAI?!



I  
WONDER  
IF AKIRA  
WILL  
WATCH.

HEY!

REMEM-  
BER LAST  
YEAR? WE  
WATCHED  
TOYA PLAY  
ZAMA  
OZA.

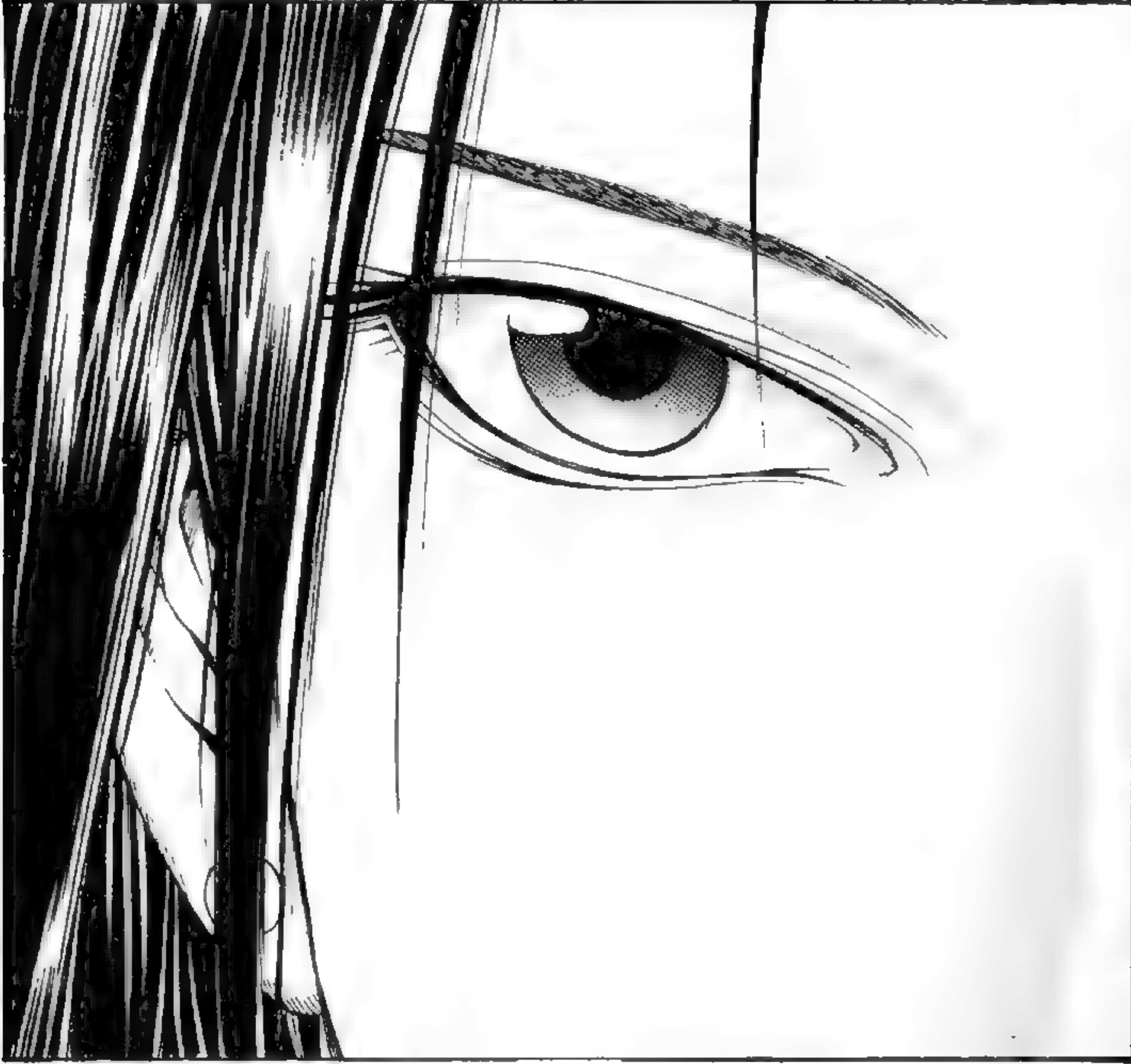


Hikaru...

ALL RIGHT!  
I'M GONNA  
SHOW HIM HOW  
STRONG A  
PLAYER I'VE  
GOTTEN TO BE!

HE'LL BE  
THERE  
FOR  
SURE!



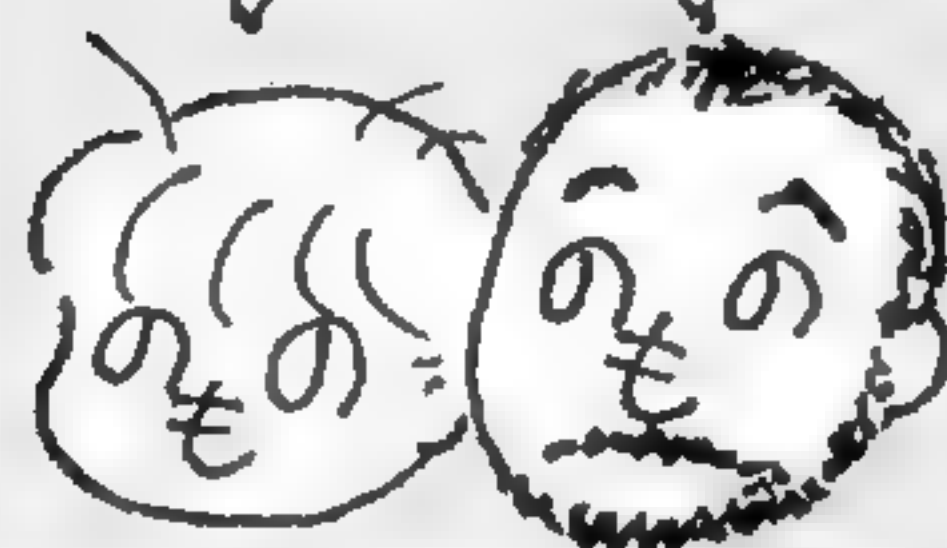




SELECTED POEMS

A RANDOM  
TRANSLATABLE  
SAMPLING...

SOME MORE  
ENTRIES  
THAT WE  
ENJOYED!



進化せよ!! 君は意識に  
過去を持つ  
〈飯田さとこ〉

千年の石音はるか  
星の宙  
〈市瀬壮一〉

YES, ZAMA OZA  
CHEWS ON HIS FAN  
NERVOUSLY  
HE'S GOT A STRONG JAW  
(MAKIHARA ASAMI)

好きなのは やつぱり読書か  
本秀英?  
〈唐鎌希〉

碁レンジャー 奈瀬はピンクな  
紅一点  
〈島田真実〉

ISUMI, WAYA,  
NASE, OCHI AND TOYA  
ALL HAVE SUCH STRANGE NAMES  
(MATSUMOTO CHIKA)

ヒカルの碁 悪手を打てば  
ヒカルの誤  
〈大澤亮太〉

ネコの霊憑いても変わらぬ  
みたにゃんこ  
〈石川真央〉

成せば成る 奈瀬なら成れる  
女流棋士  
〈谷川真里奈〉

「ぶぎけるな!」アキラめません  
勝つまでは  
〈阿部千春〉

記念写真 ヒカルの後ろに  
佐為うつすらと  
〈石毛翔太〉

CHECKED MY HISTORY  
TRIED REAL HARD TO LOOK HIM UP  
NOTHING TO BE FOUND  
(MIYATA AKI)

佐為の目は最後に白い  
星見据え  
〈柳田稔〉

ジョジョみたい? 朝から晩まで  
ゴゴゴ碁!!  
〈小林慶治〉

神の一手を打ち間違えて  
神一重  
〈井上剛志〉

人の良さ 勝負強さと  
紙一重  
〈吉原夏子〉

太古の精 碁盤の前に  
神と化す  
〈杉田遼〉

平安に 咲き匂ひたり  
彼岸花  
〈三木啓太郎〉

藤原 佐為はヒカルの  
才の元  
〈難波翔一朗〉

白と黒 星を操り  
夢ヒカル  
〈仁保裕司〉

さいの顔 ジャニーズ行っても  
大丈夫  
〈矢羽田樹史〉

盤上に輝く一手  
ビッグバン!!  
〈西田じゅん〉

MISTER TSUBAKI  
NAME OF A PRETTY FLOWER  
FACE OF A GORILLA  
(KATAHIRA ERI)

いやし系 そばにおきたい  
その笑顔  
〈田村梨奈〉

膨らむ芽 思えば懐かし  
かたき種  
〈清水未央〉





Game 99  
"I'll Play"





Allow  
me to  
play...



Please,  
Hikaru...



SAI...





I want  
to play.



DON'T...



AKIRA'S GOING TO BE  
WATCHING! AND WAYA  
AND OCHI TOO.  
THE GAME WILL EVEN  
BE IN GO WEEKLY!



DON'T BE  
RIDICULOUS!





IF YOU PLAY,  
YOU'LL WIN  
FOR SURE.  
WE BOTH KNOW  
HOW STRONG  
YOU ARE.

AND BESIDES,  
IN THE SHINSHODAN  
SERIES, BLACK  
GETS A HANDICAP  
OF 5 1/2 POINTS IN  
REVERSE KOMI.



AND I'LL  
HAVE TO  
COVER UP  
FOR YOU  
AND ALL.



So  
what?



IT'S NOT  
THAT SIMPLE.  
I'M THE ONE  
WHO HAS TO  
DEAL WITH  
PUTTING ON  
AN ACT FOR  
YOU...





So... when  
will you ever  
let me play  
again?



SAI...







AFTER I DIE, YOU'LL  
BE BOUND TO  
SOMEBODY ELSE.  
YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY  
OF OTHER CHANCES  
TO PLAY.  
ISN'T THAT WHAT  
YOU TOLD ME?

WHAT'S  
GOTTEN  
INTO YOU?  
I THOUGHT...

YOU TOLD ME  
YOU'VE GOT ALL  
OF ETERNITY ON  
YOUR SIDE, SO  
YOU'RE NOT IN  
ANY RUSH TO  
PLAY.



OF COURSE IT IS!  
I WAS ONLY THE  
SECOND PERSON  
YOU ATTACHED  
YOURSELF TO.  
SO THERE'LL BE A  
THIRD AND A  
FOURTH.

Well,  
that's  
probably  
true,  
but...



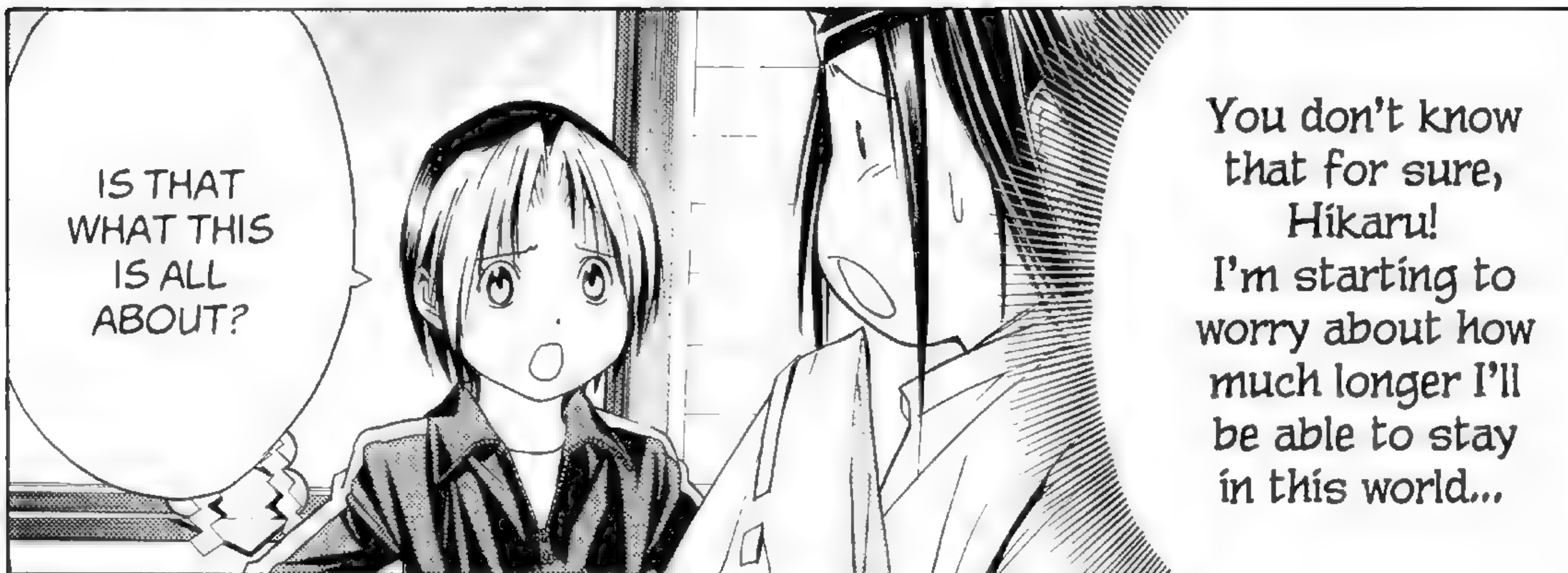
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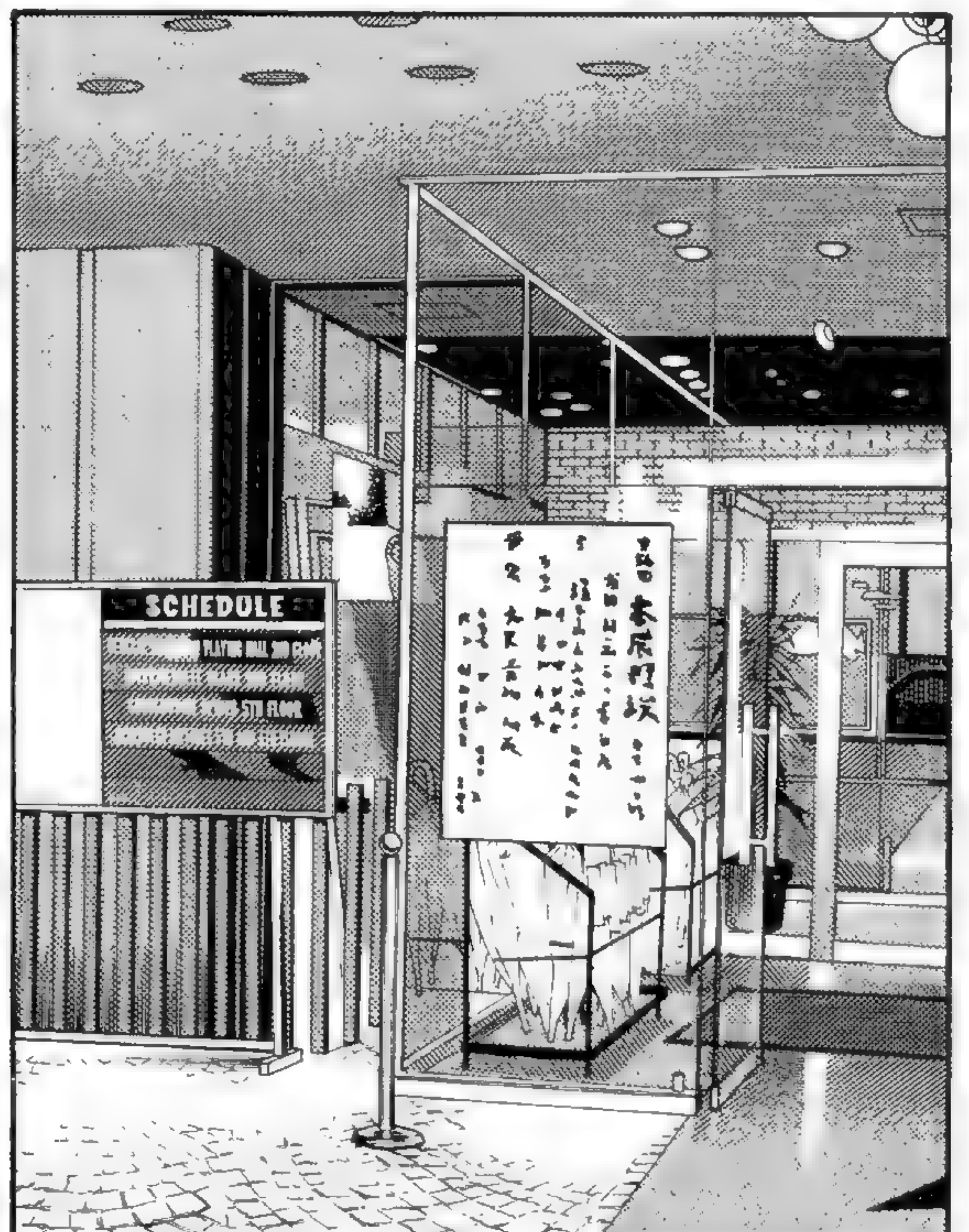
WELL,  
ISN'T IT?

.....

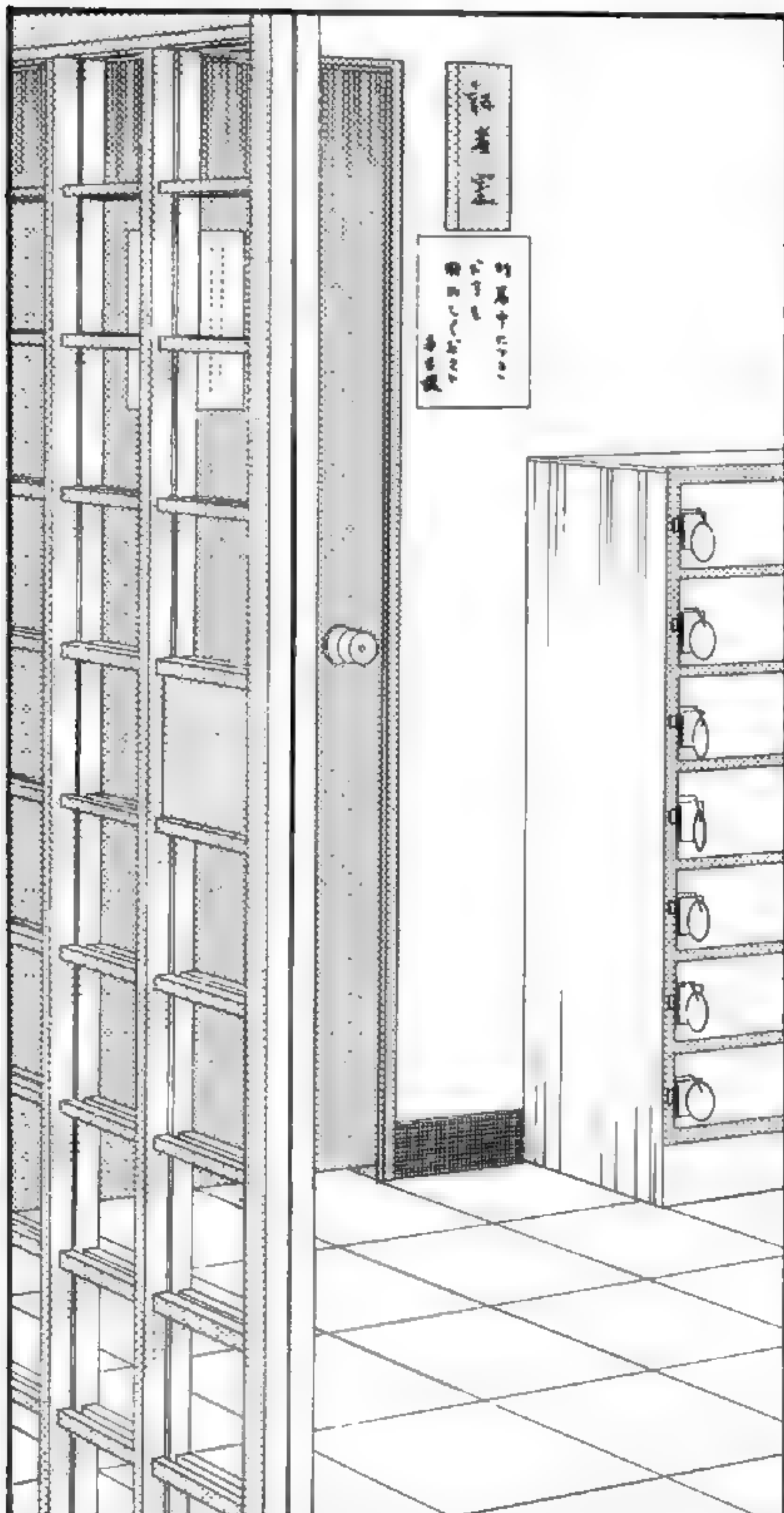
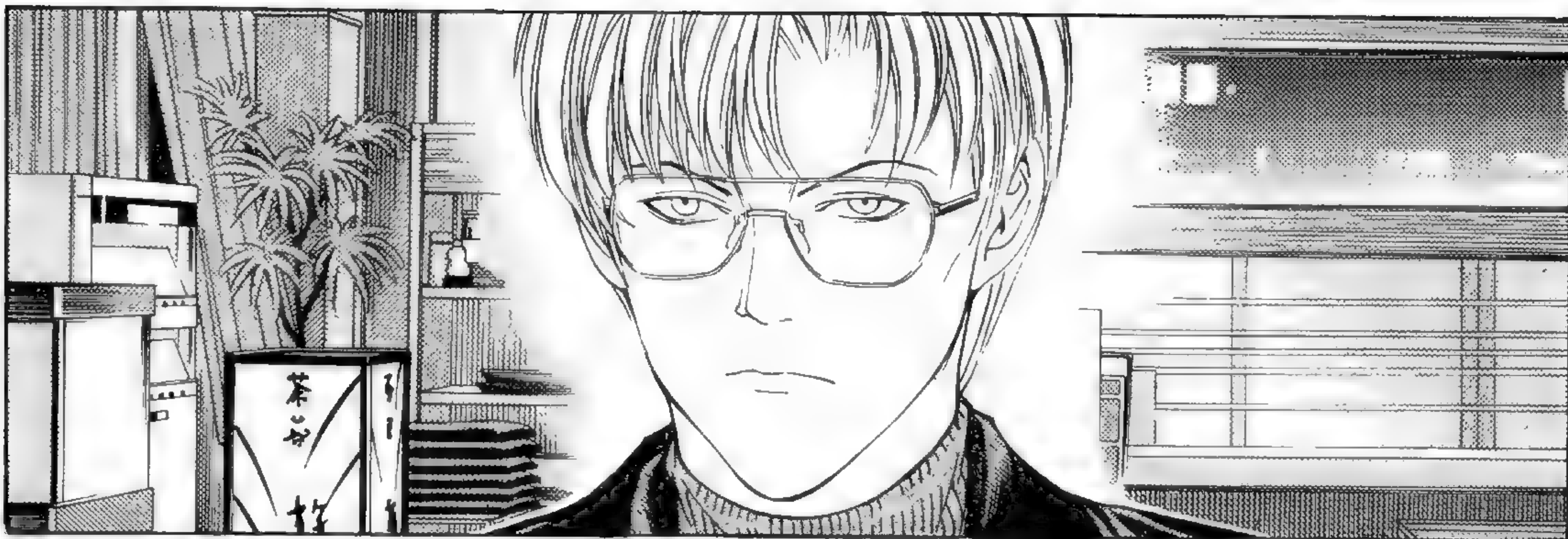
















IF IT  
ISN'T  
YOUNG  
OGATA.

IT'S  
BEEN A  
WHILE.



CHAK



WELL,  
WELL...

AH...

KUWABARA  
SENSEI...

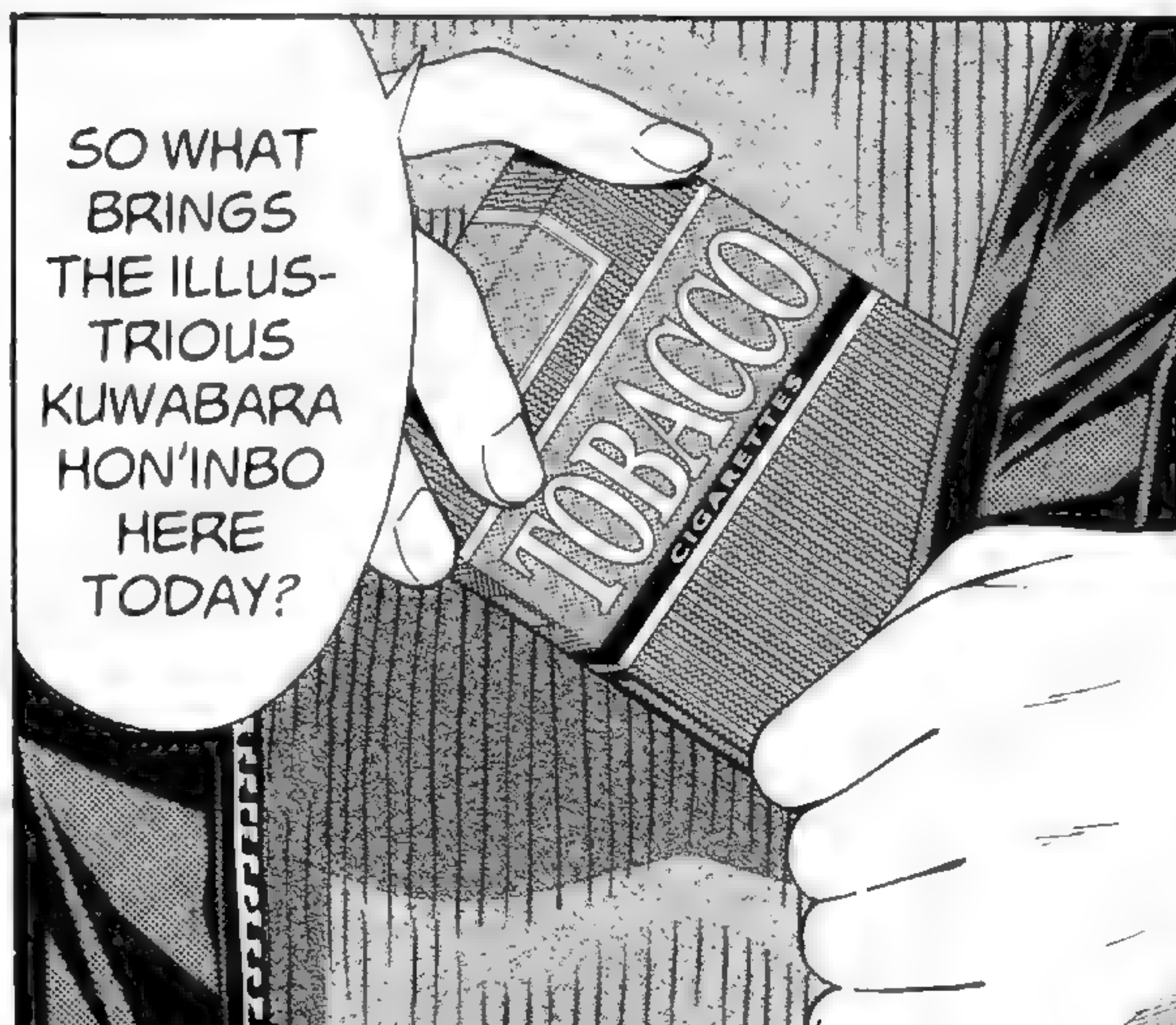
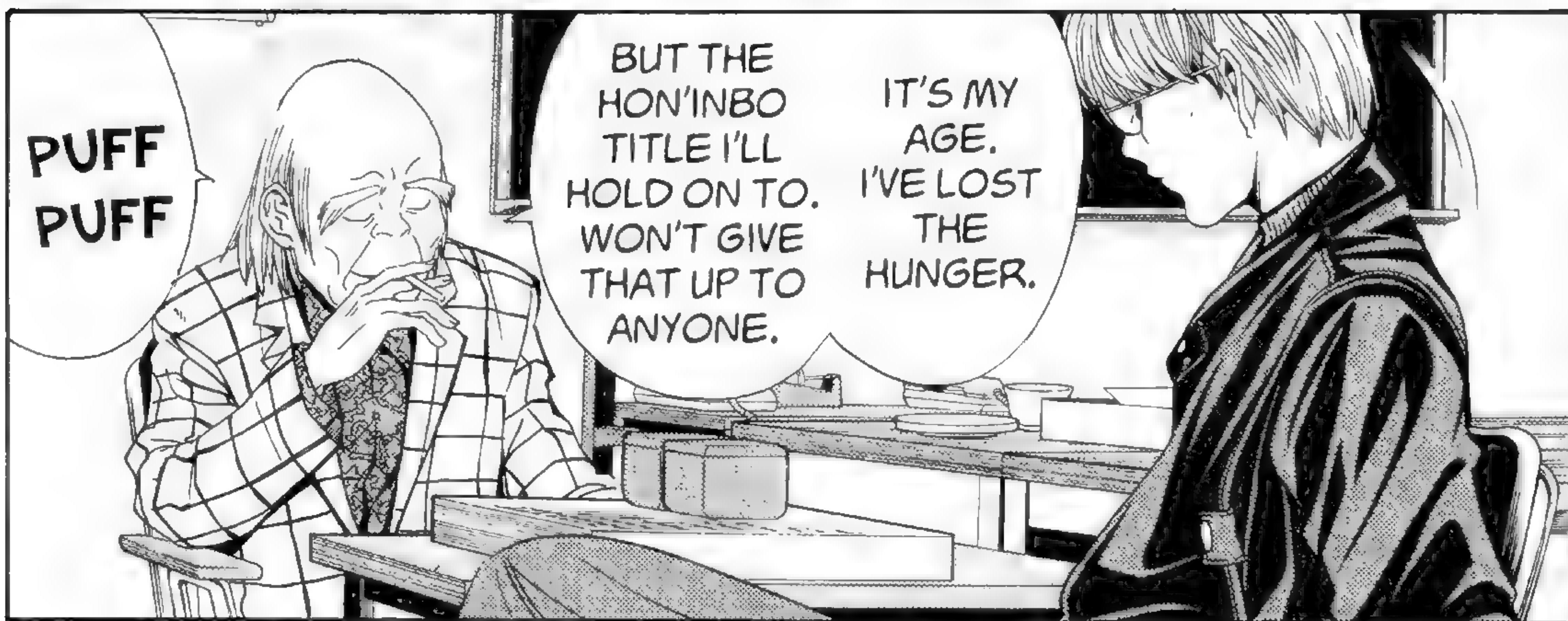


YES... I  
LEARNED  
A LOT  
FROM  
THAT  
GAME.

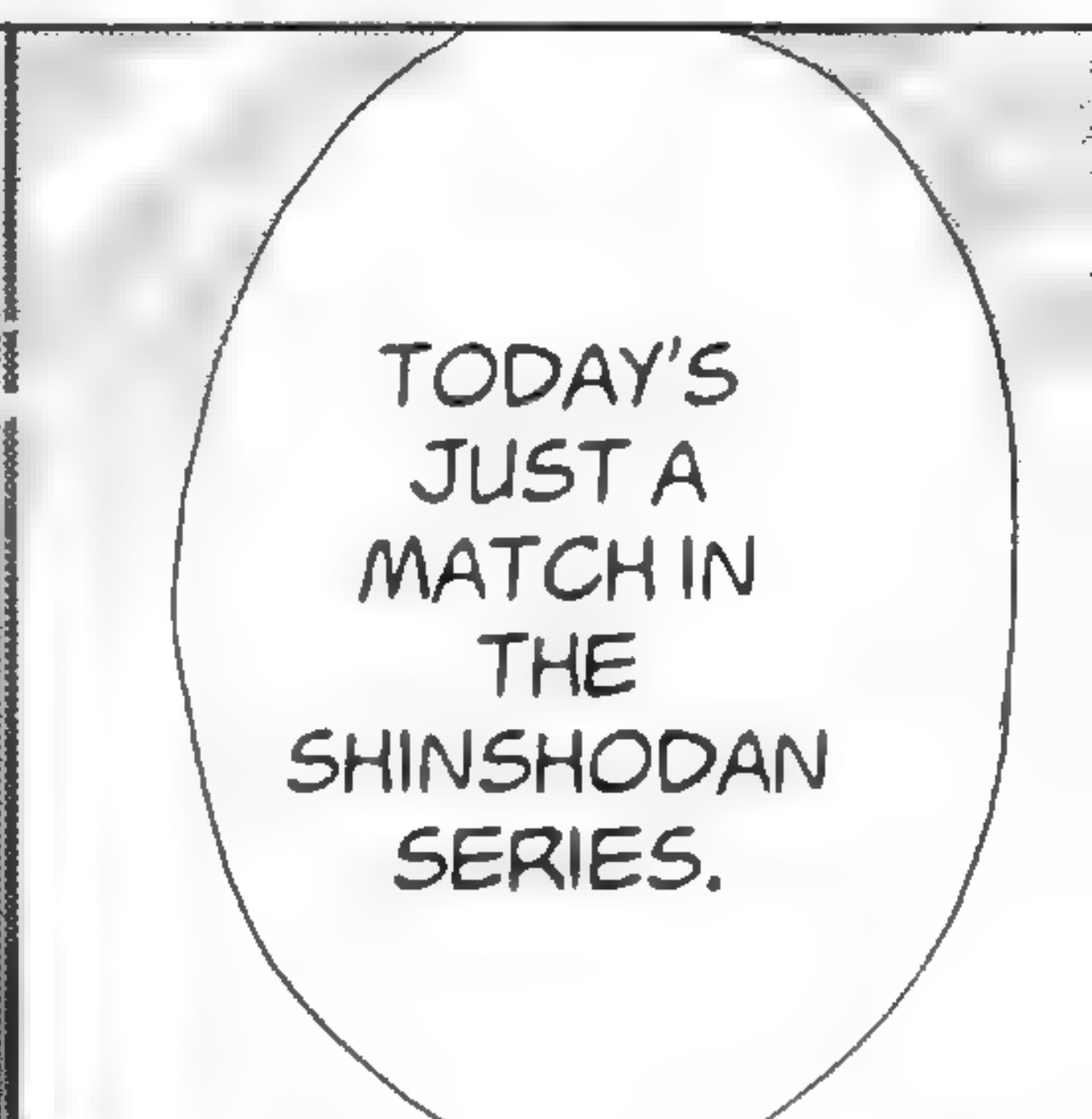
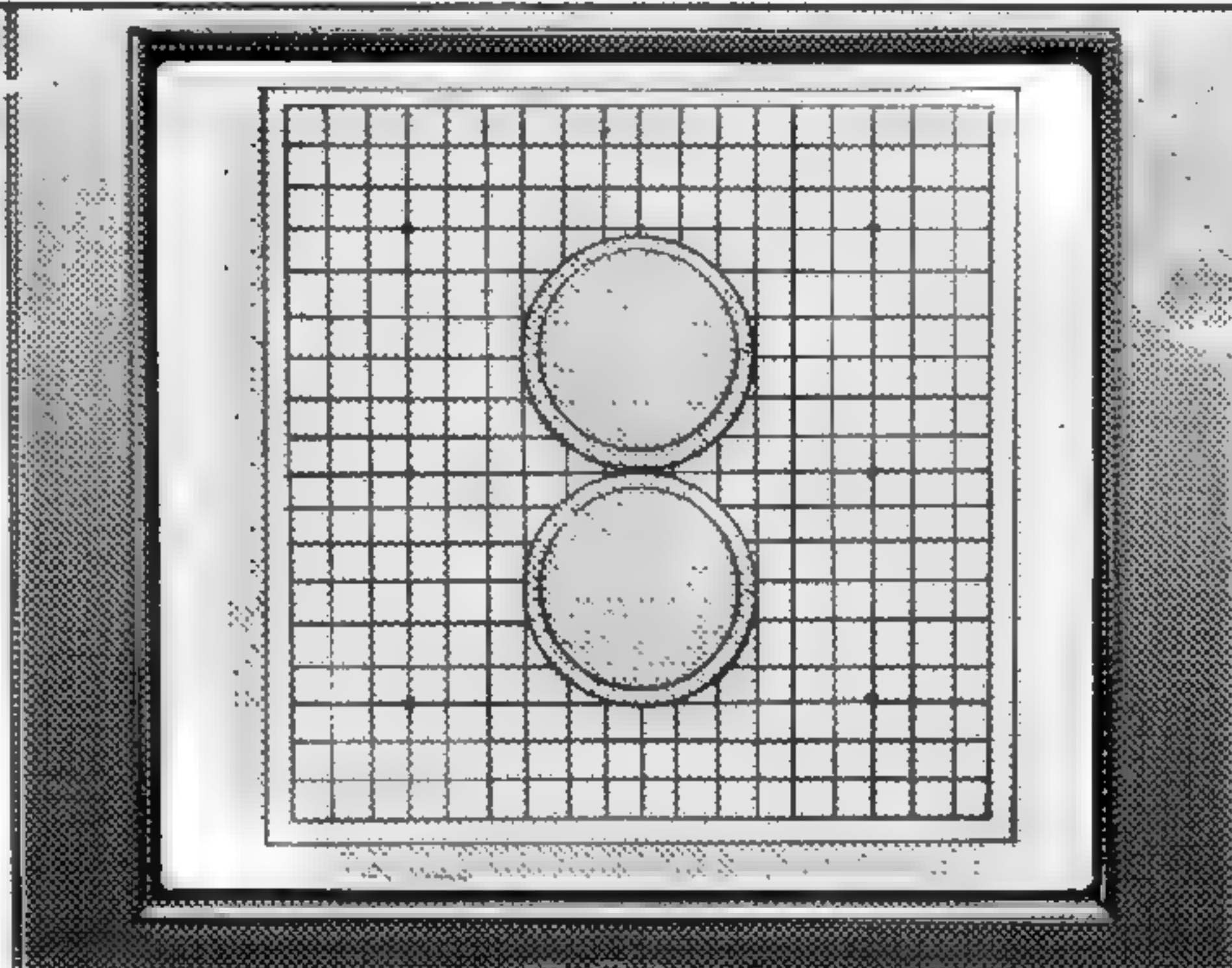
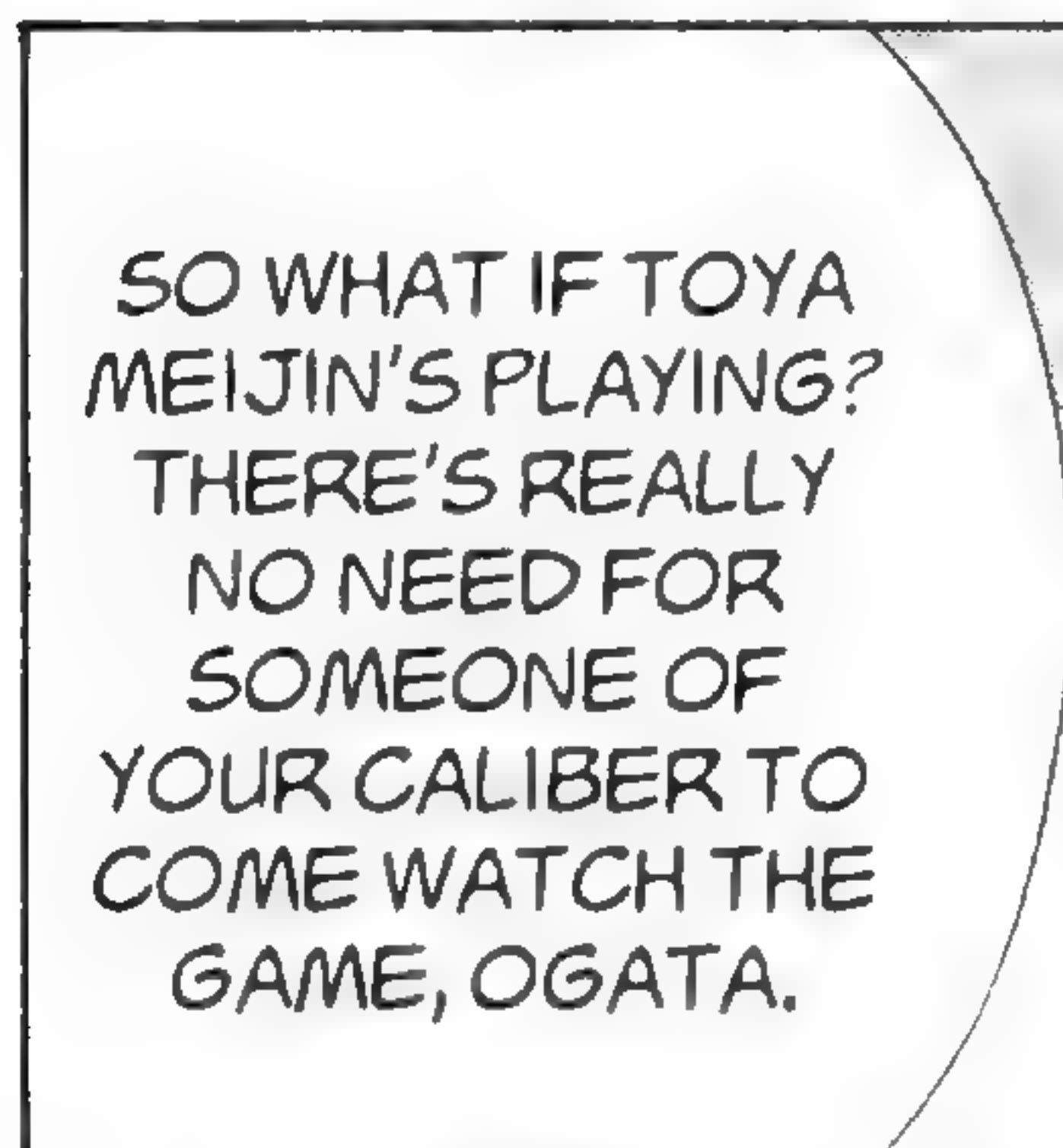
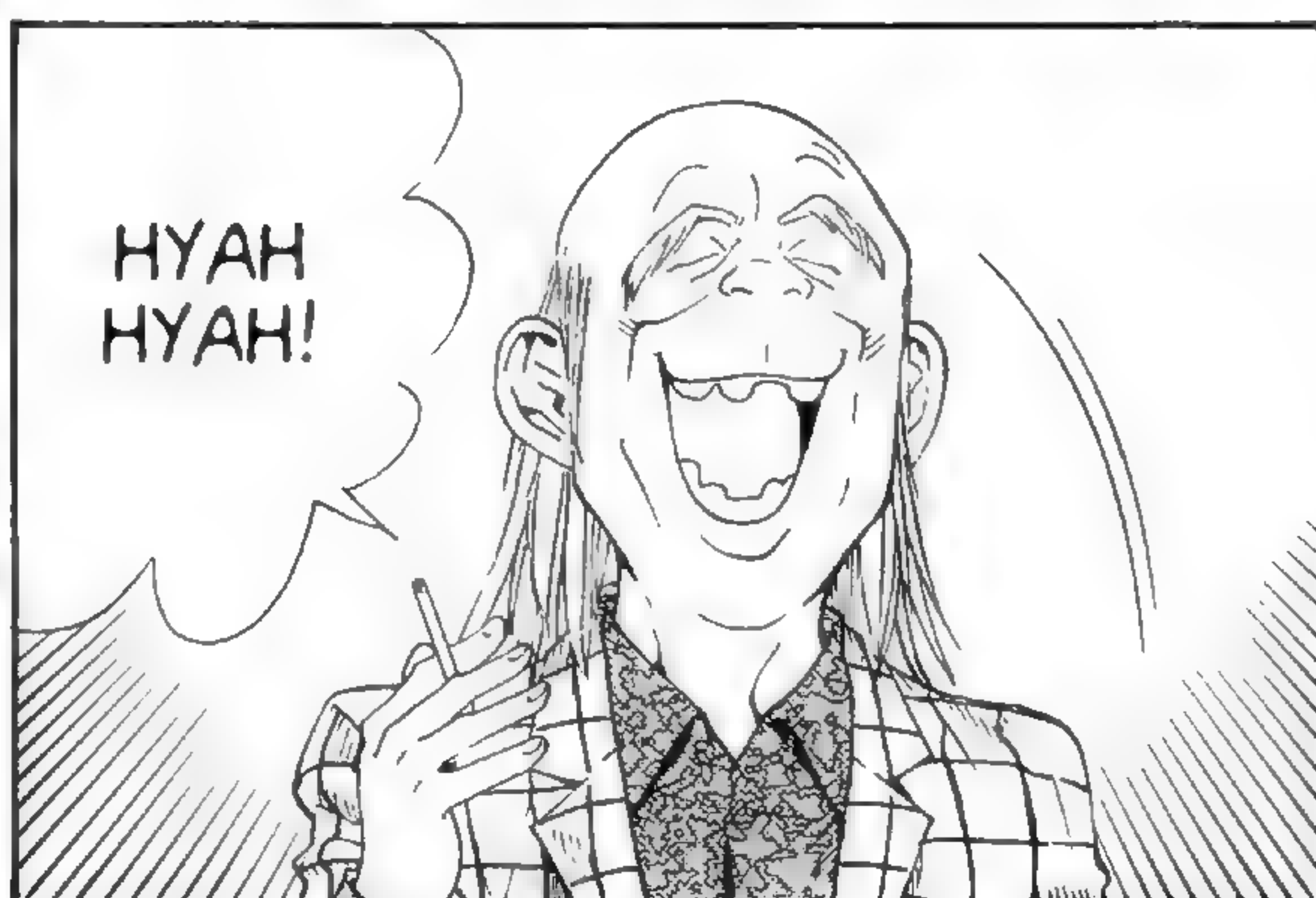


WHEN WAS THE LAST  
TIME I SAW YOU FACE-  
TO-FACE LIKE THIS?  
THE HON'INBO MATCH?  
THAT SEVENTH GAME  
SURE WAS FUN!  
**HEH HEH HEH!**













SIXTH  
SENSE?



I JUST TOOK ONE  
LOOK AT THE KID  
AND I KNEW IT.  
HAH! MY SIXTH  
SENSE IS REALLY  
SOMETHING ELSE!  
HEH HEH.

AHA!  
SO I'M  
RIGHT ON  
TARGET!



HE  
JUST  
PASSED  
BY ME  
IN THE  
HALL  
AND I  
KNEW.

YOU  
KNOW...  
E.S.P.?  
INTU-  
ITION?



WHAT  
ABOUT  
YOU,  
WAYA?

THEY  
HAVEN'T  
CONTACTED  
ME  
YET.

SHINDO'S  
PLAYING IN THE  
FIRST GAME, AND  
YOU'RE PLAYING  
NEXT WEEK, OCHI.  
YOU GUYS ARE  
SO LUCKY!

JUST  
PASSED YOU  
IN THE HALL?!  
THAT'S  
RIDICULOUS!



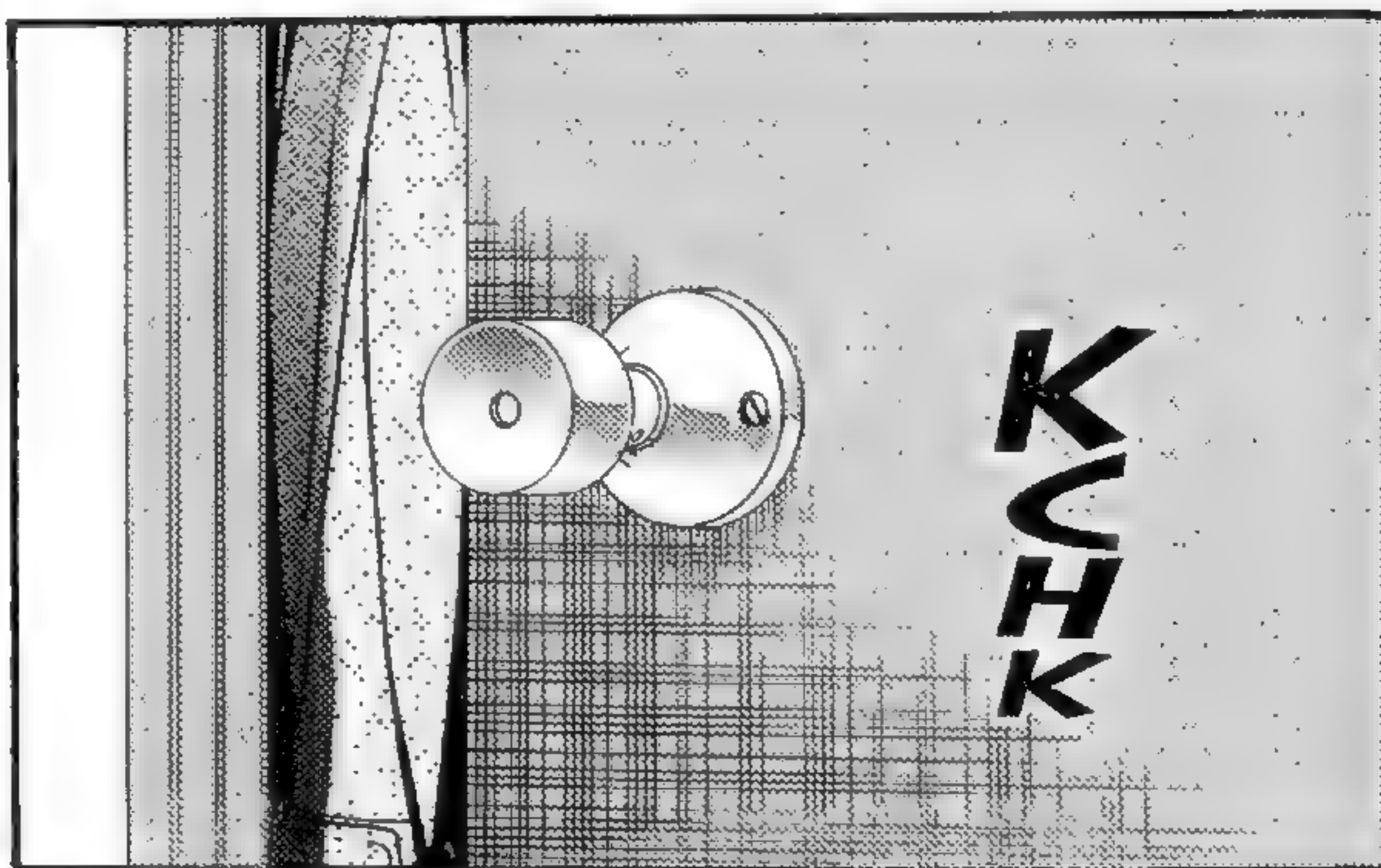
I CAN'T  
WAIT TO  
PLAY TOO!

KU  
H  
K

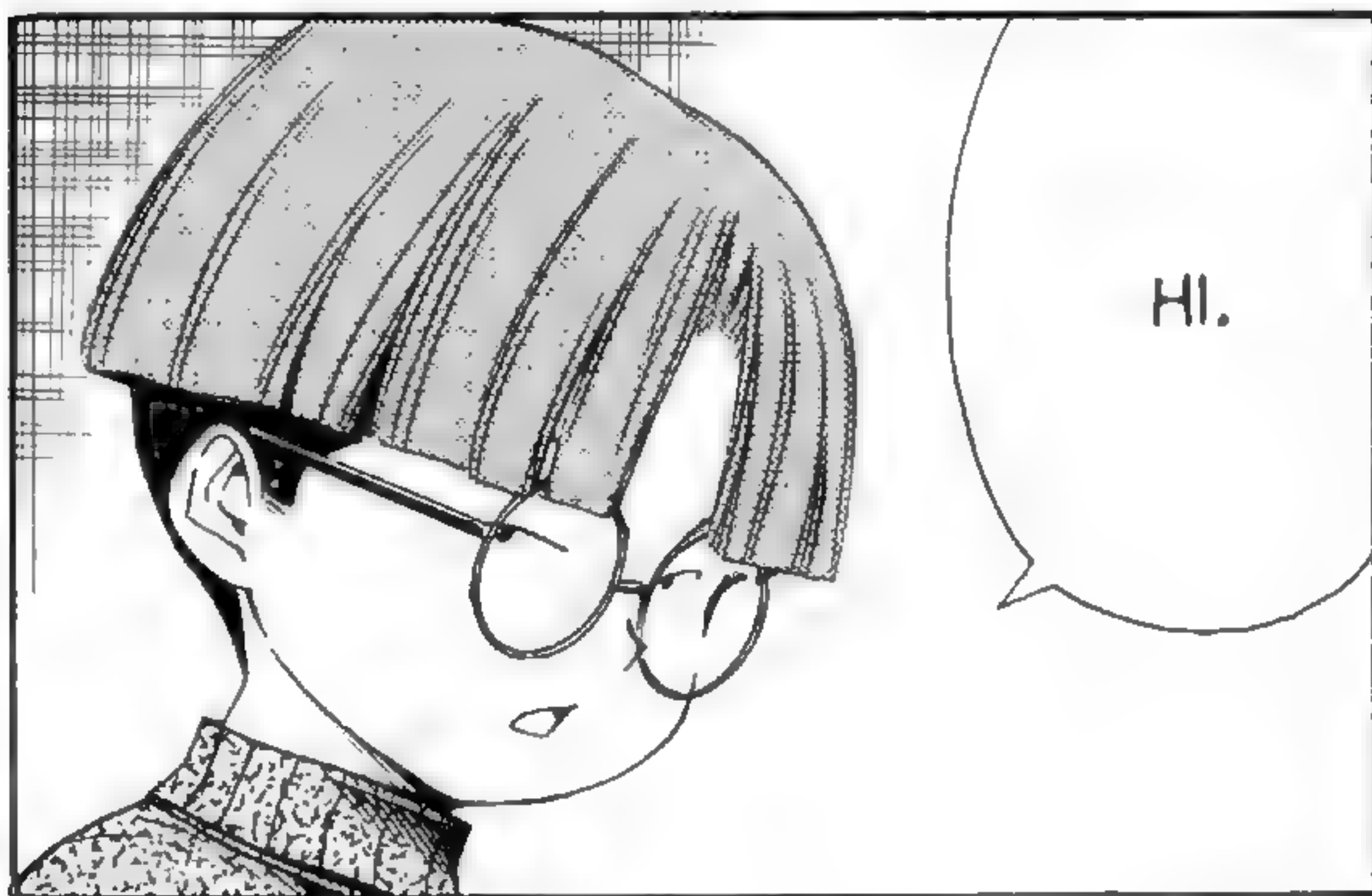




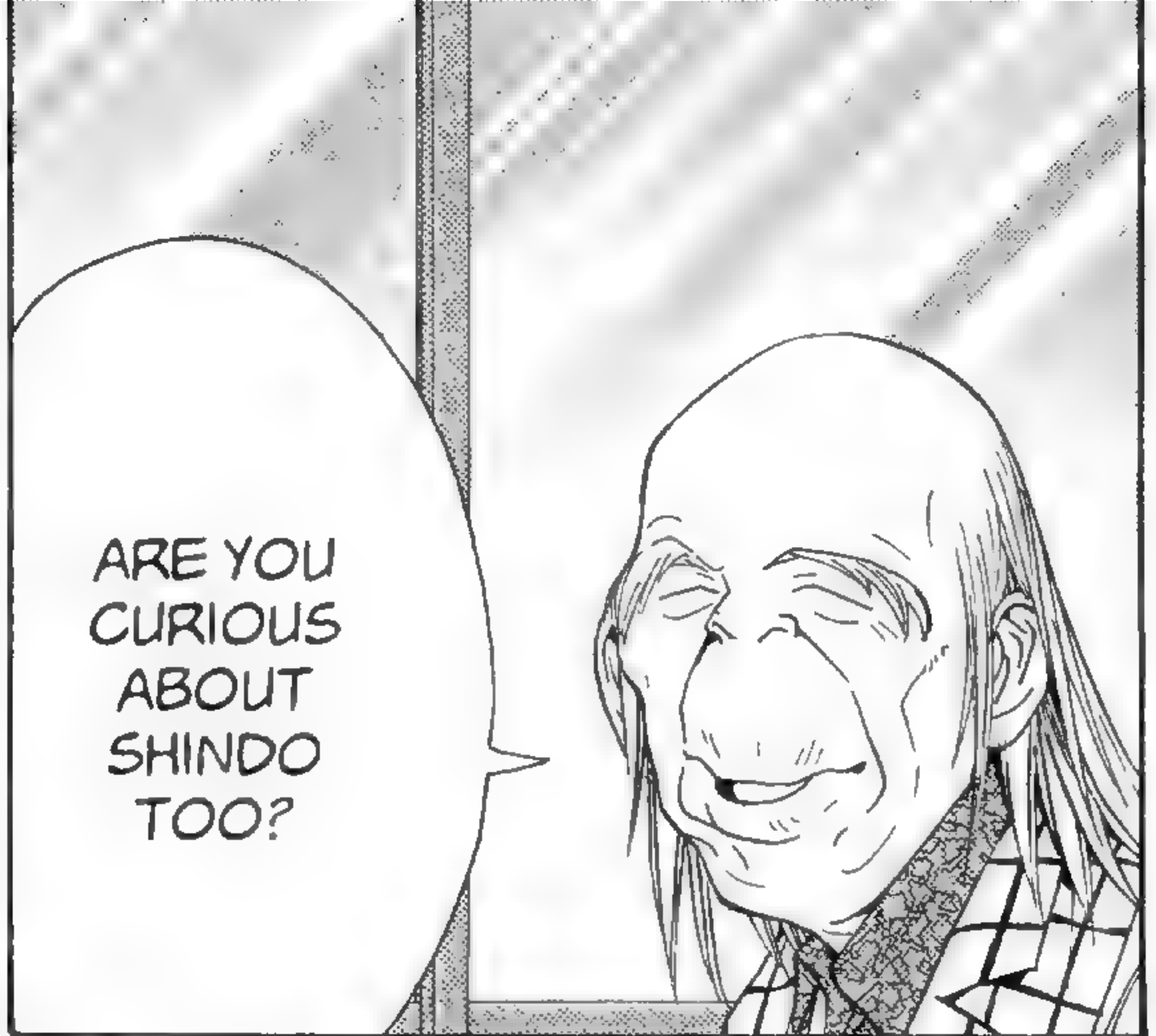


















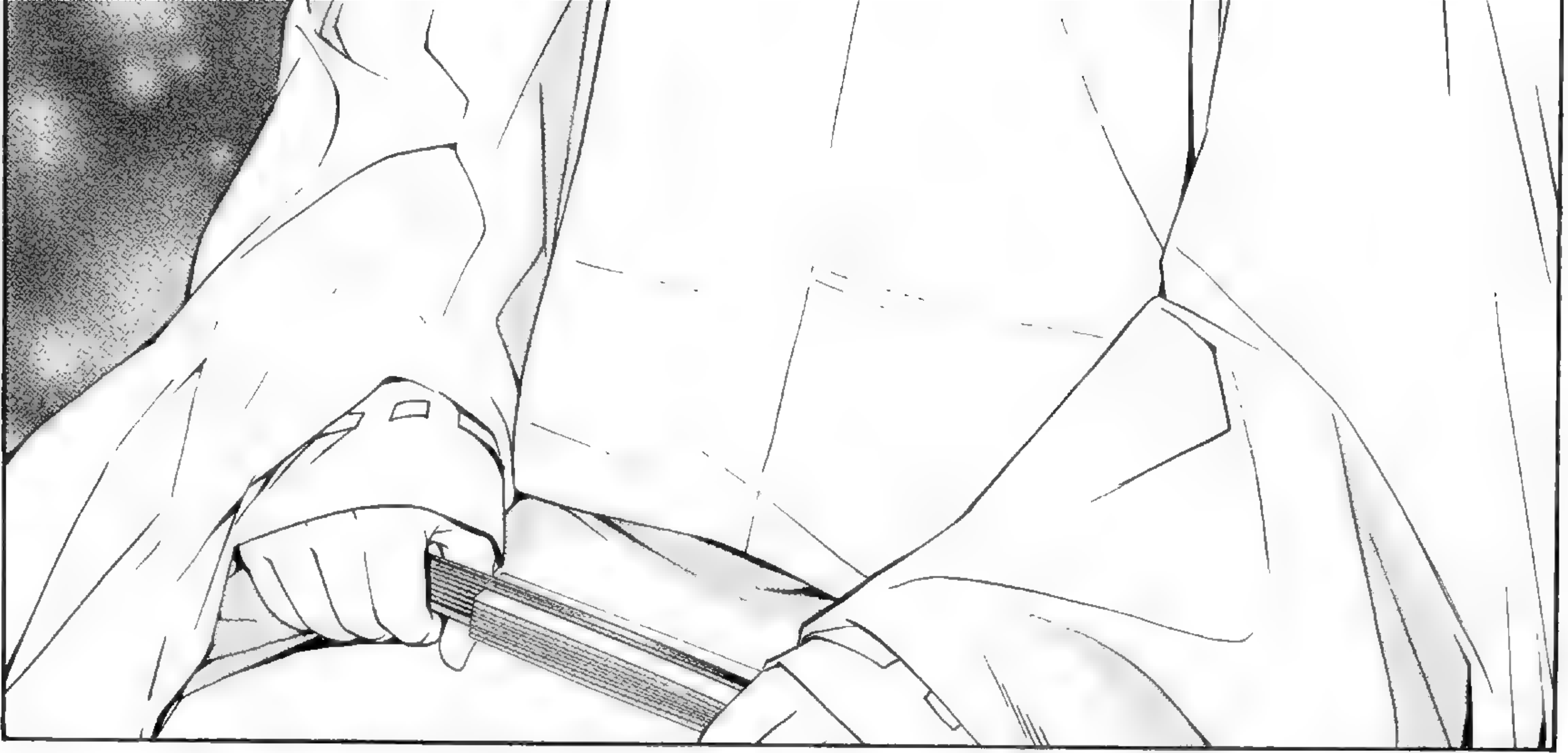
SHOW  
ME HOW  
STRONG  
YOUR  
GAME IS.











SAI!



# HIKARU NO GO

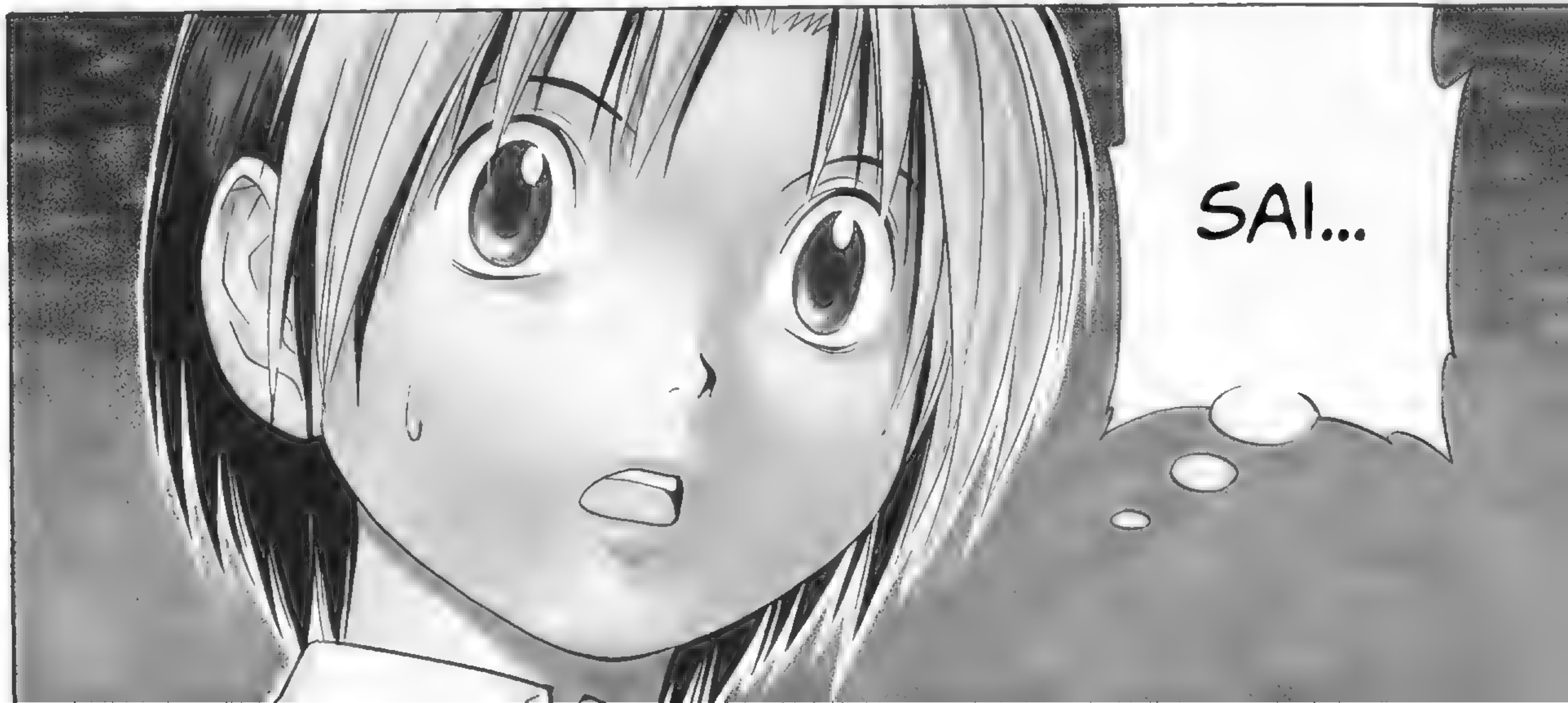




# Game 100 "Hikaru Takes His Time"



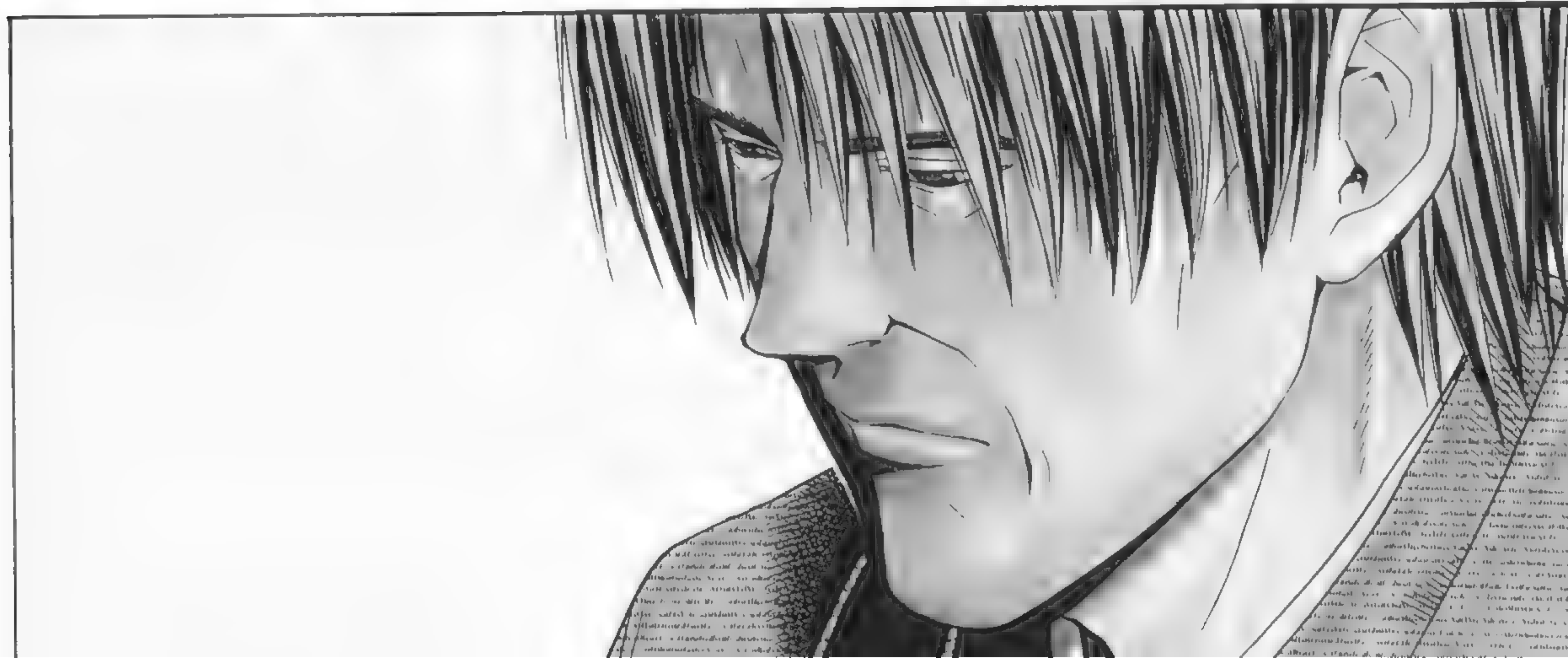




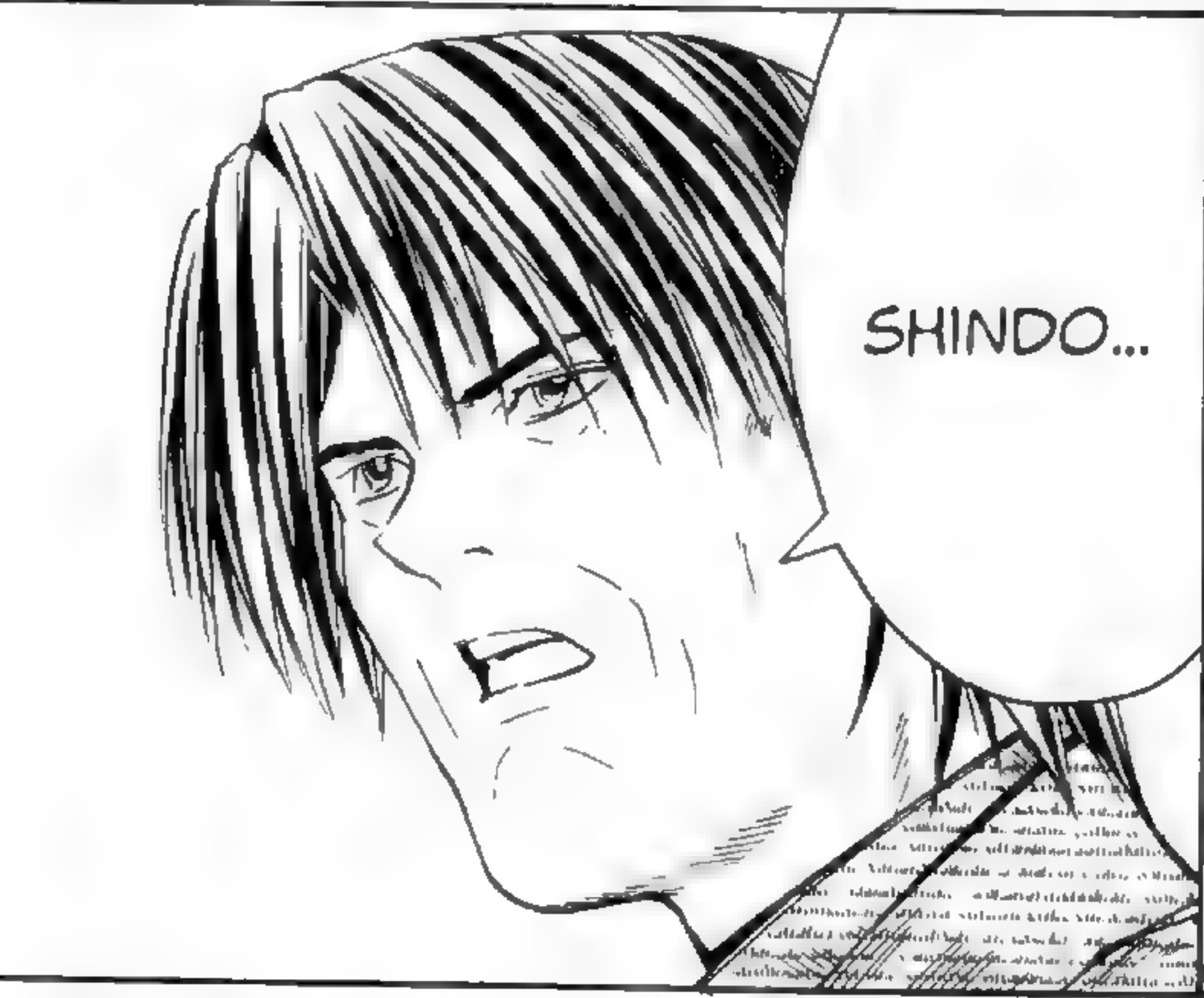








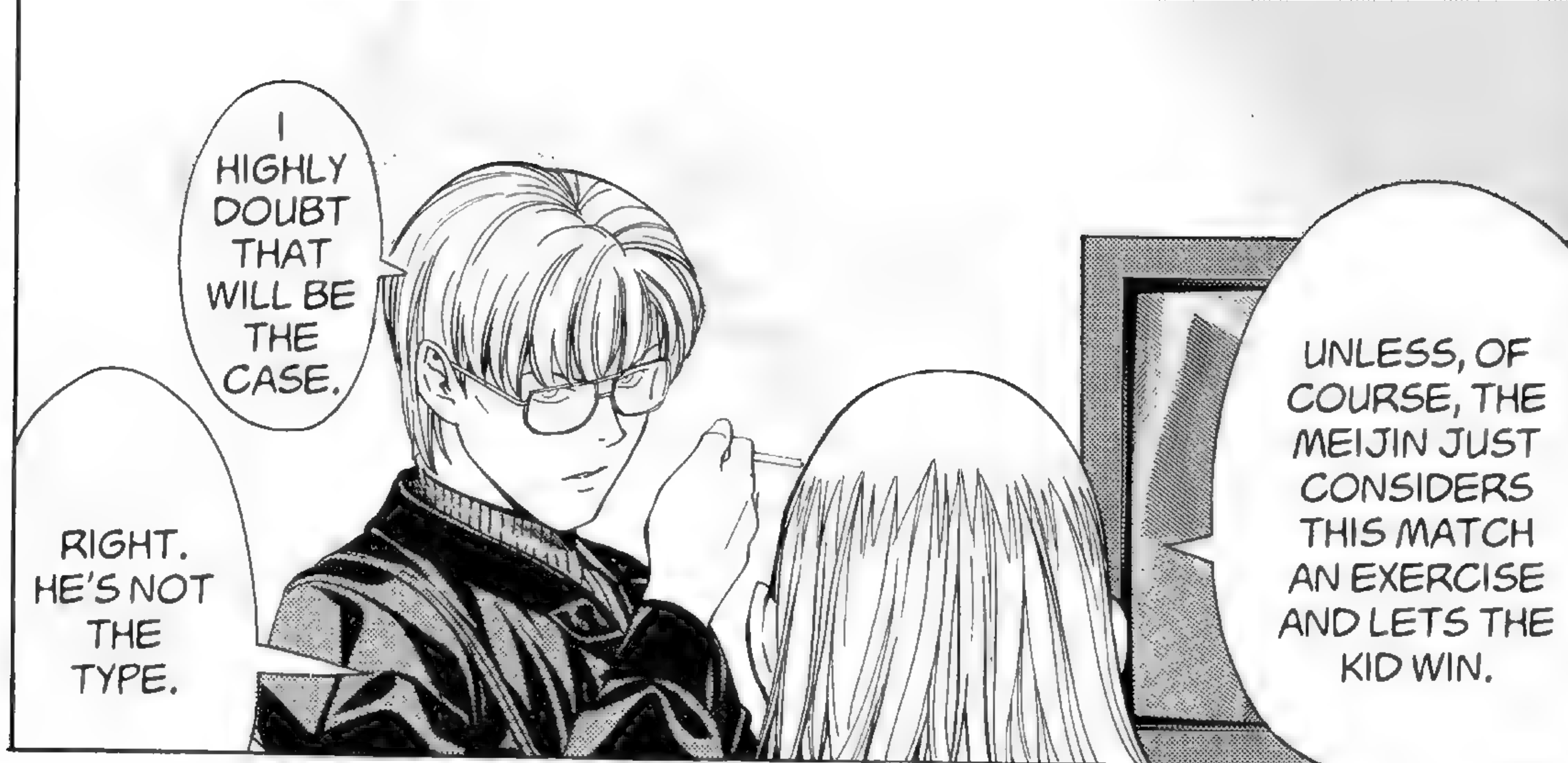








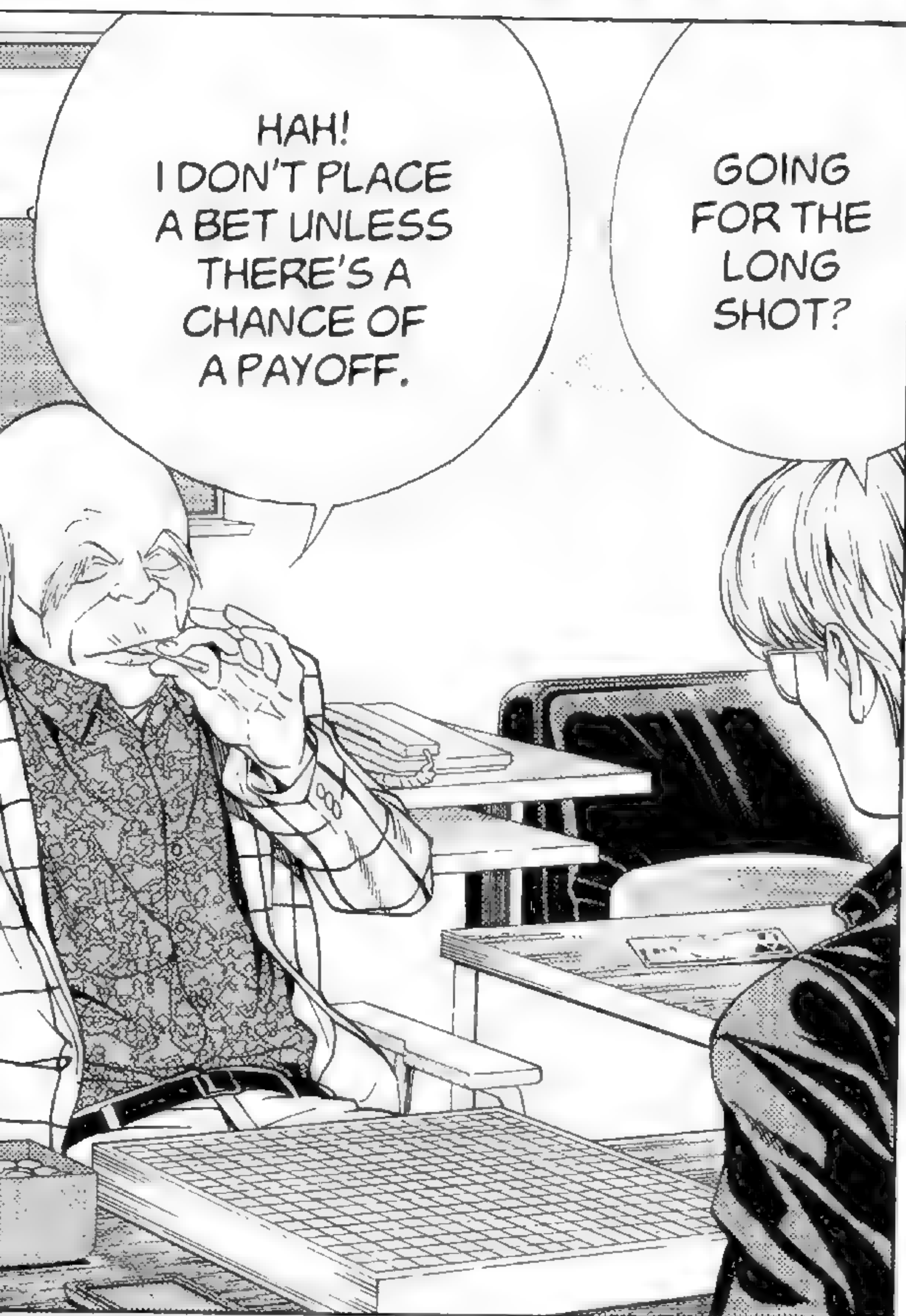




I  
HIGHLY  
DOUBT  
THAT  
WILL BE  
THE  
CASE.

RIGHT.  
HE'S NOT  
THE  
TYPE.

UNLESS, OF  
COURSE, THE  
MEIJIN JUST  
CONSIDERS  
THIS MATCH  
AN EXERCISE  
AND LETS THE  
KID WIN.

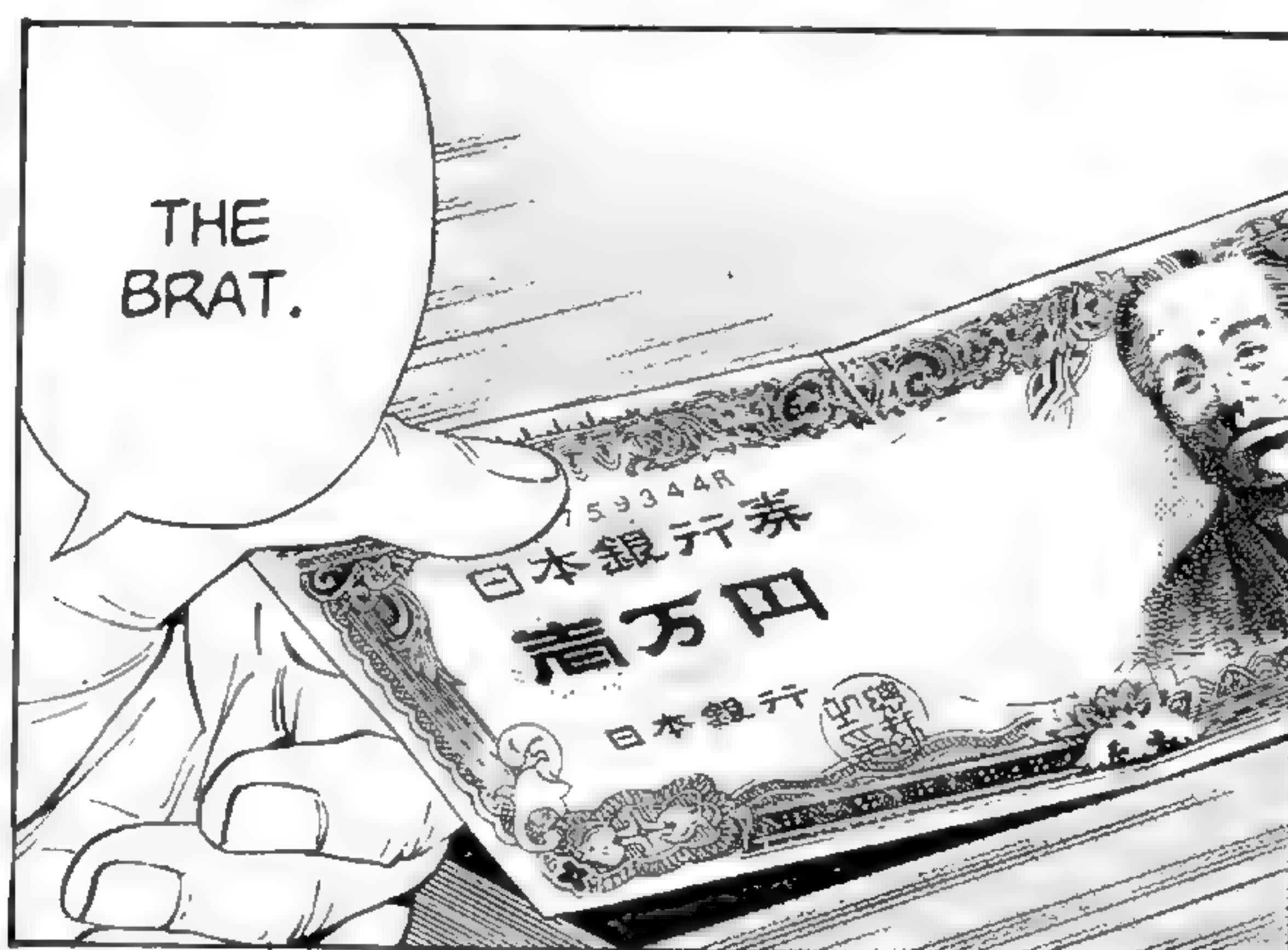


HAH!  
I DON'T PLACE  
A BET UNLESS  
THERE'S A  
CHANCE OF  
A PAYOFF.

GOING  
FOR THE  
LONG  
SHOT?



SO.  
WHO  
ARE YOU  
BETTING  
ON?

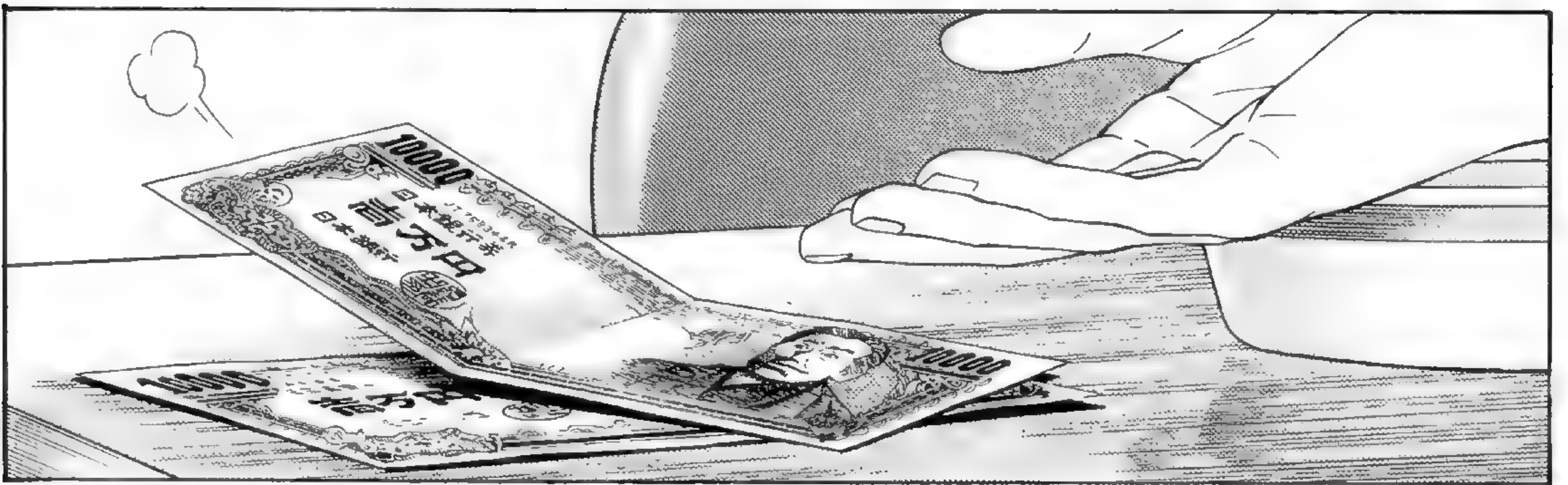
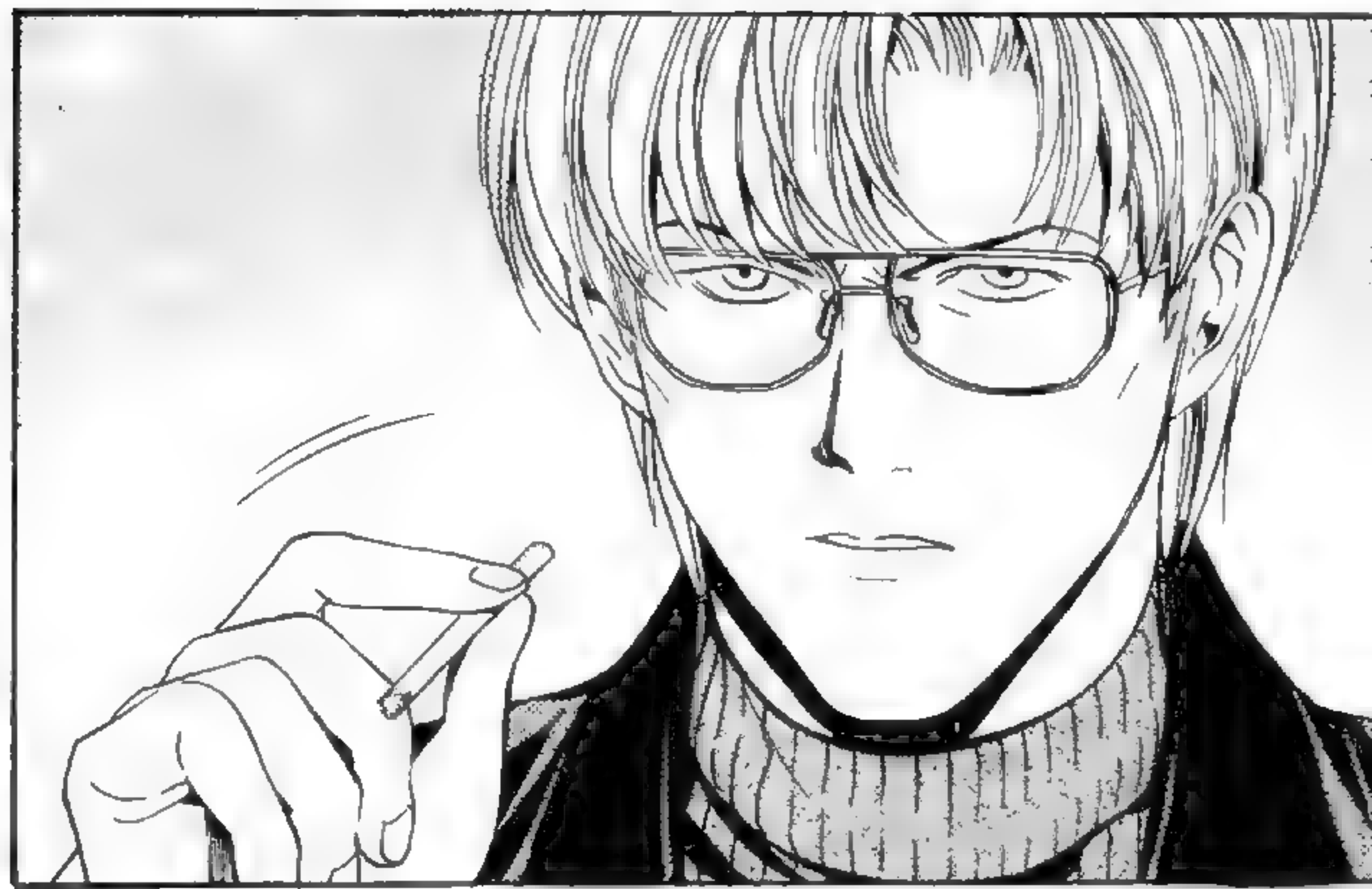


THE  
BRAT.

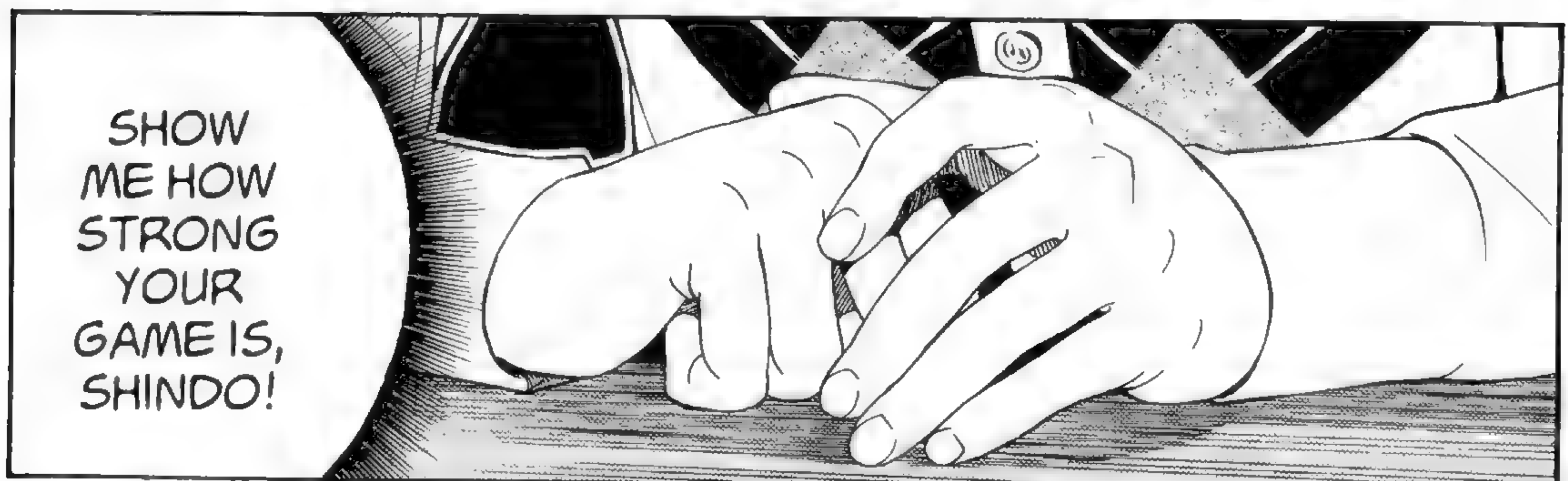
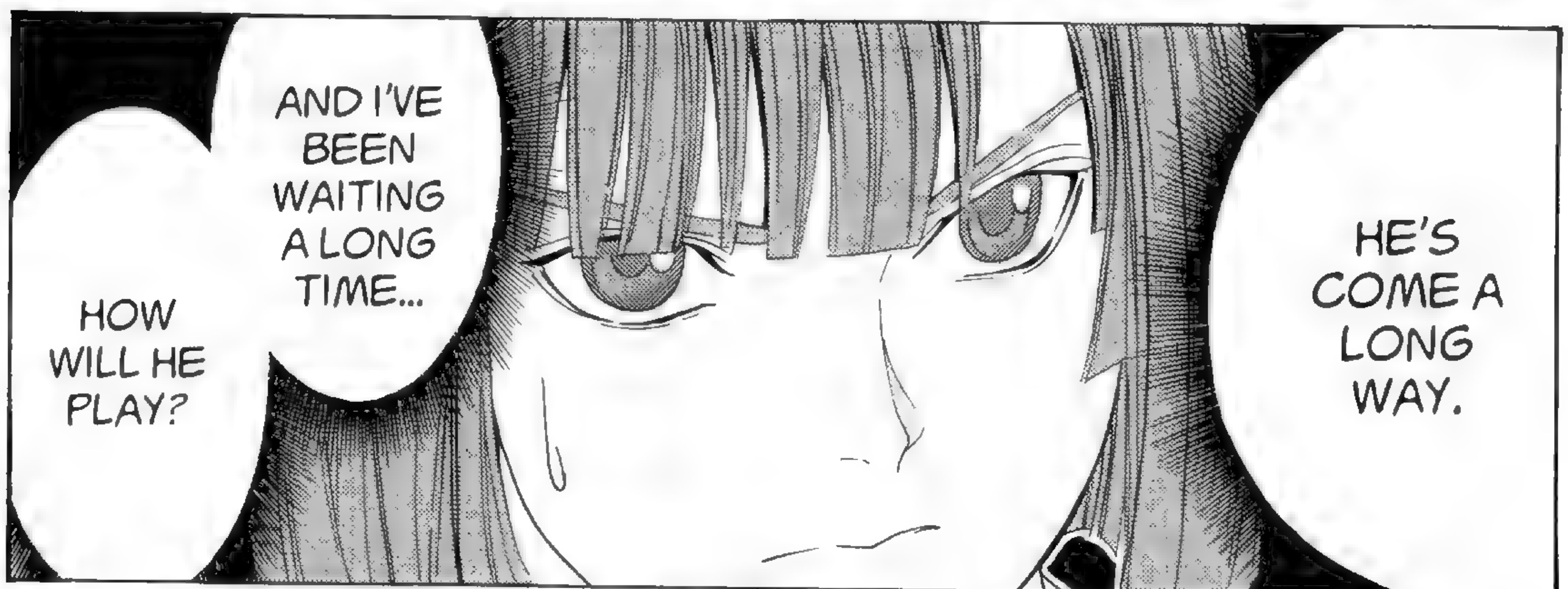


OR ARE YOU  
SAYING **YOU**  
WANT TO PUT  
YOUR MONEY  
ON THE  
BRAT?

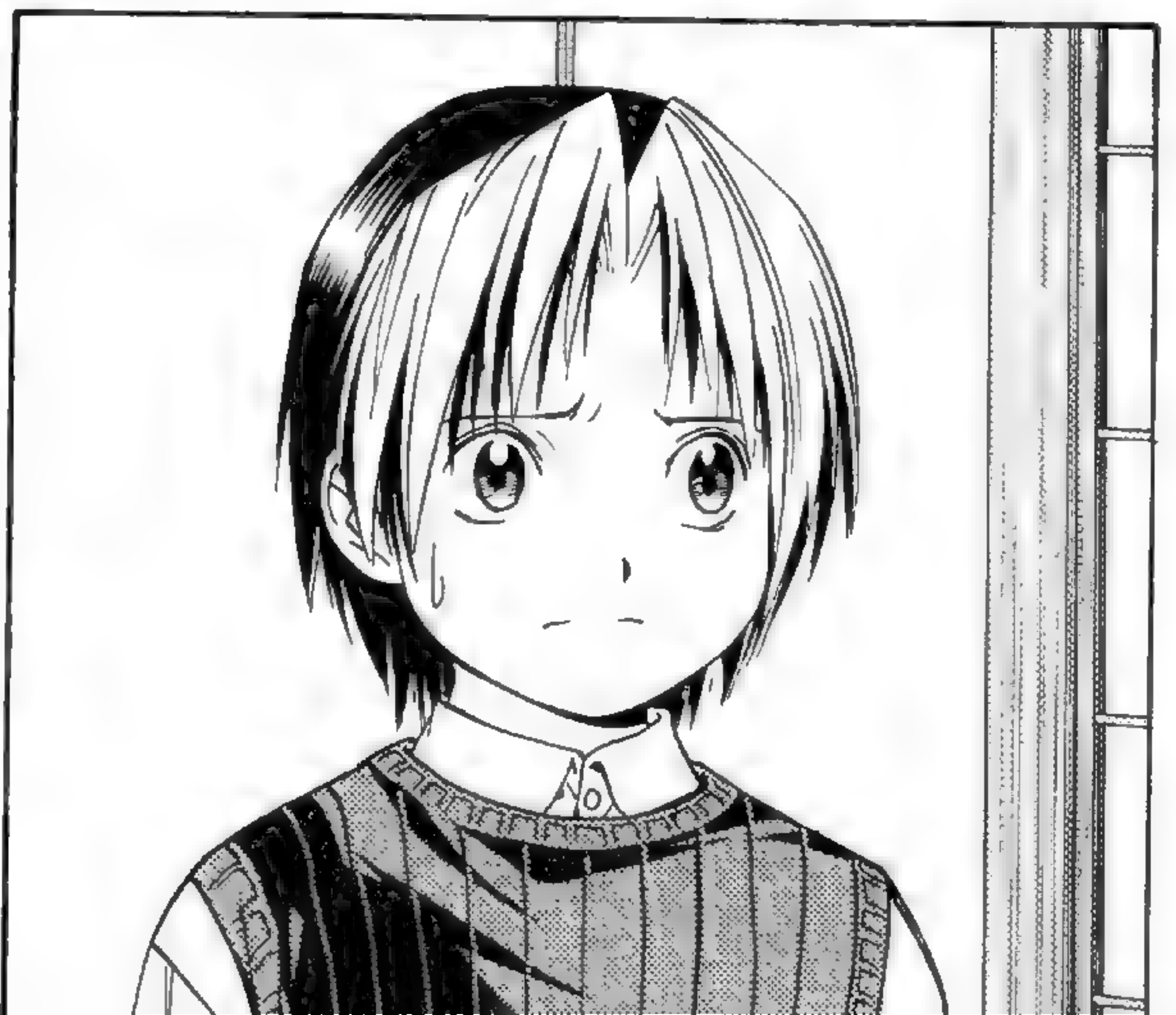
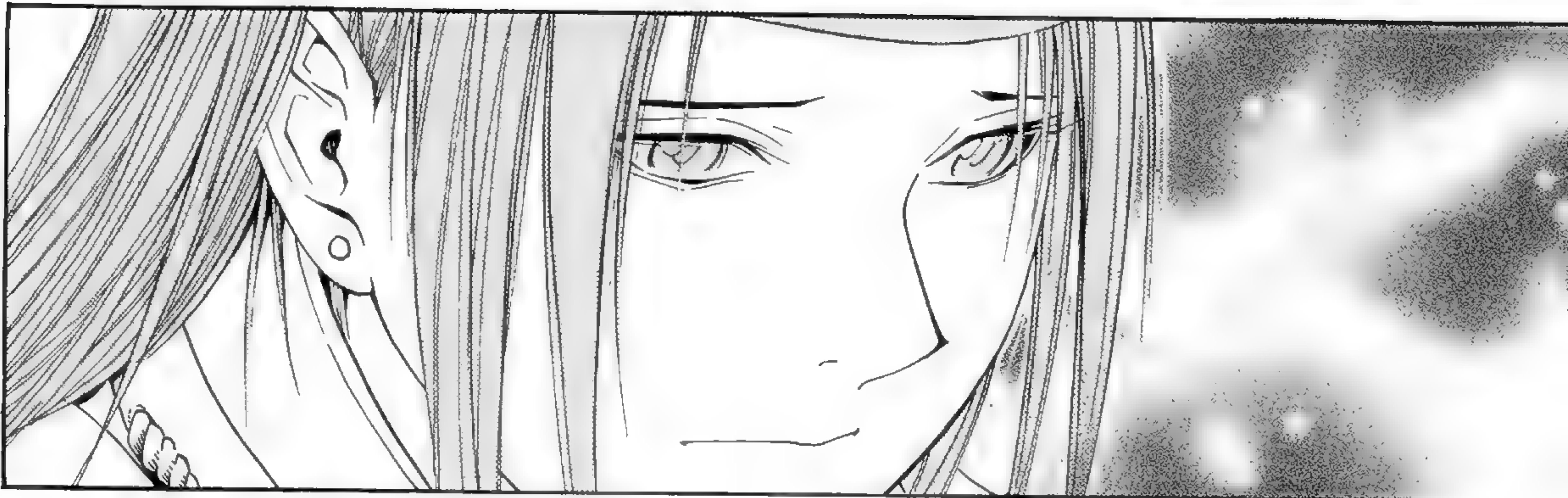










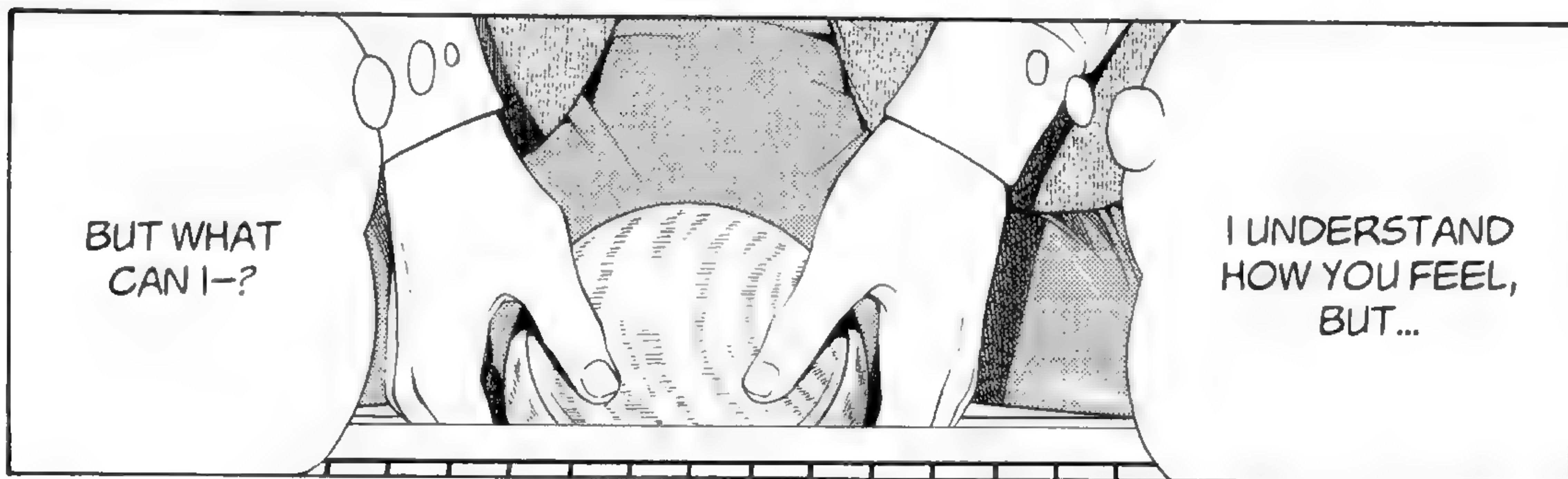






I'VE  
GOT TO  
FOCUS  
ON THIS  
GAME.

DARN IT,  
SAI. DON'T  
GET ALL  
SULKY ON  
ME NOW.



BUT WHAT  
CAN I--?

I UNDERSTAND  
HOW YOU FEEL,  
BUT...



I MEAN,  
AFTER  
ALL...









YOU'LL WIN  
FOR SURE,  
AND THEN  
PEOPLE WILL  
EXPECT ME TO  
LIVE UP TO  
THAT!

NO WAY!  
A 5 1/2 POINT  
REVERSE  
KOMI IS TOO  
MUCH OF AN  
ADVANTAGE  
FOR YOU.



IF YOU  
TAKE A  
HANDICAP,  
IT'LL  
CHANGE  
HOW YOU  
PLAY...

A  
HANDICAP  
...



BUT  
MAYBE...



SAY, SOMETHING  
LIKE 15 POINTS,  
THEN YOU  
WOULDN'T BE ABLE  
TO PLAY YOUR  
REGULAR GAME.  
WE MIGHT BE  
ABLE TO GET  
AWAY WITH IT...

IF WE  
GAVE YOU  
AN EVEN  
**BIGGER**  
HANDICAP...

IN THIS  
GAME, TOYA  
MEIJIN IS  
WHITE, AND  
HE'S TAKING  
A 5 1/2  
POINT  
HANDICAP.



Yes!  
Let's do  
that!





SAI...

I'll play as  
if I have a  
15-point  
handicap!



YOU  
REALLY  
WANT TO  
PLAY...?  
EVEN IN A  
MATCH  
LIKE  
THAT?

AND DON'T  
FORGET  
WHO YOUR  
OPPONENT  
IS. HE'LL  
DESTROY  
YOU.

DO YOU REALIZE  
WHAT YOU'RE  
SAYING, SAI?  
YOU HAVE THE FIRST  
MOVE, BUT OVER-  
COMING A 15-POINT  
HANDICAP WILL  
REALLY CHANGE  
YOUR GAME.



THE NEW PRO WILL  
TAKE BLACK WITH  
A REVERSE KOMI  
OF 5 1/2 POINTS.  
EACH PLAYER WILL  
HAVE TWO HOURS  
OF GAME TIME.

TIME TO  
BEGIN!





AFTER A  
PLAYER  
USES UP HIS  
GAME TIME,  
HE WILL  
HAVE ONE  
MINUTE TO  
COMPLETE  
EACH MOVE  
IN OVER-  
TIME.



PLEASE  
BEGIN.

ONEGAI-  
SHIMASU.



ONEGAI-  
SHIMASU.

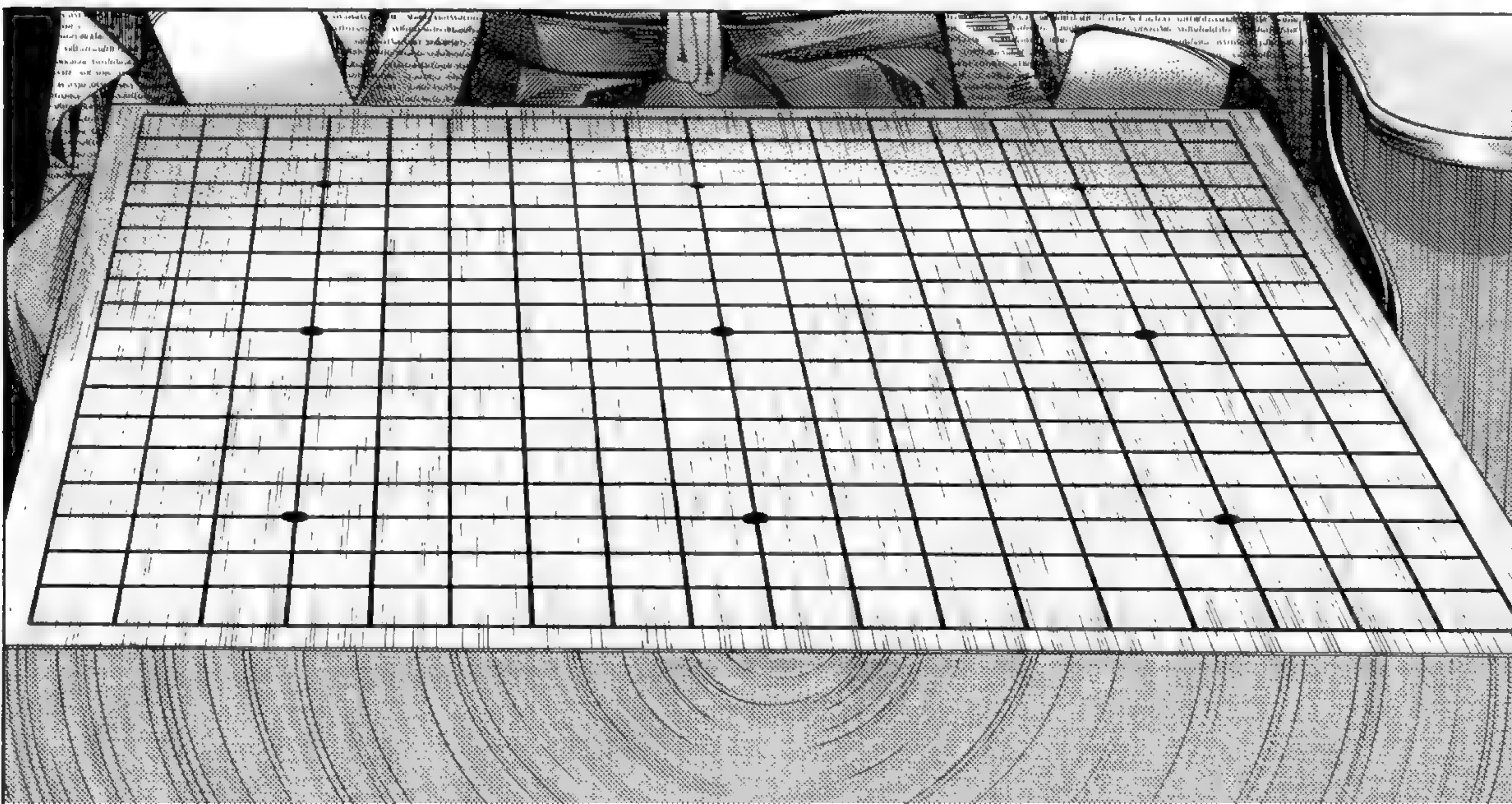
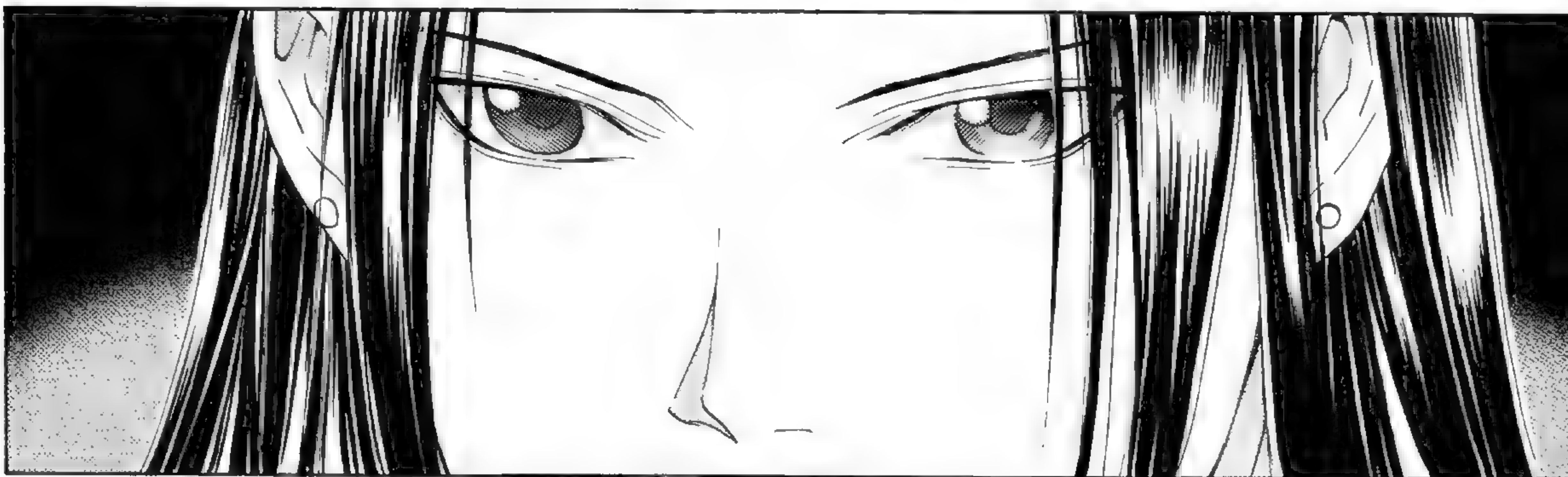
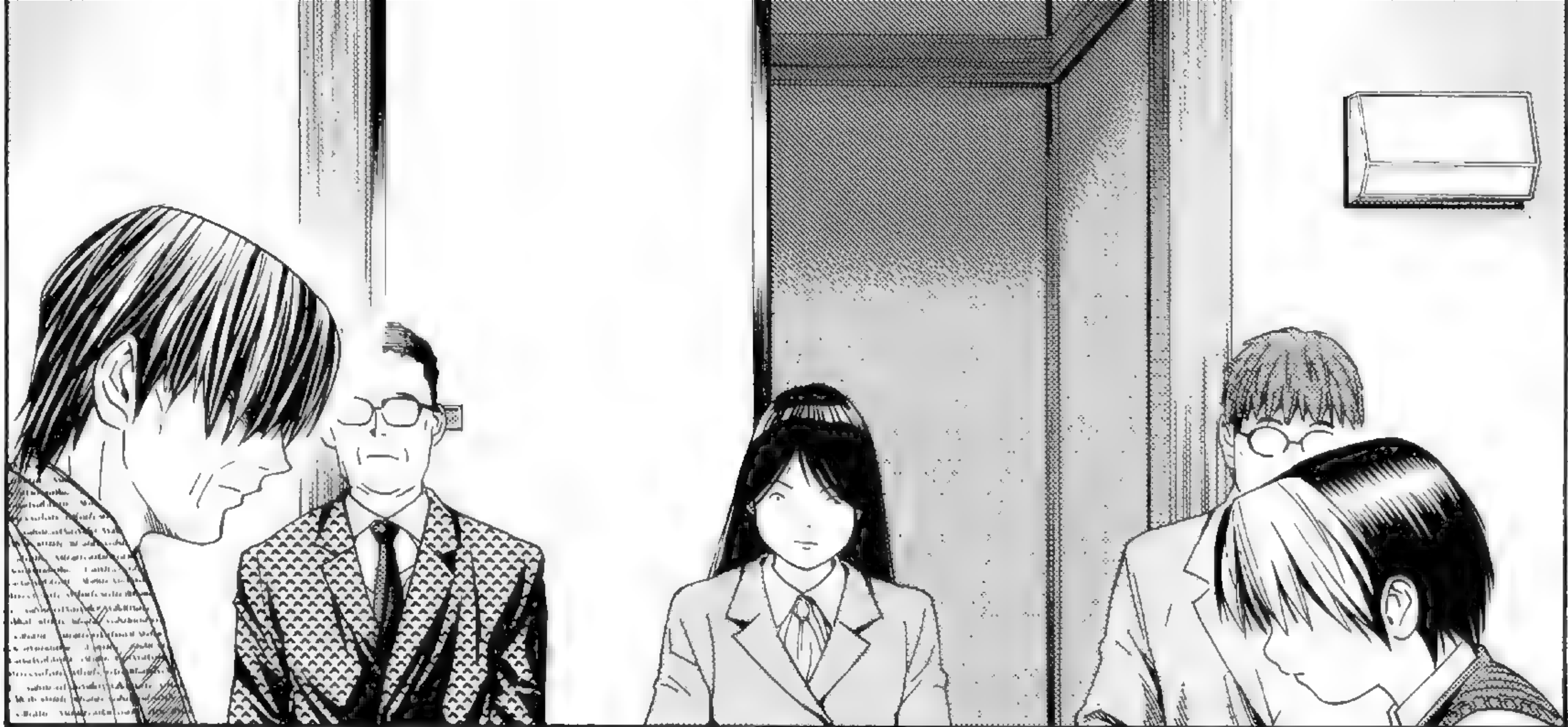


IF YOU'RE  
SURE  
YOU'RE  
ALL RIGHT  
WITH THAT  
HANDI-  
CAP...

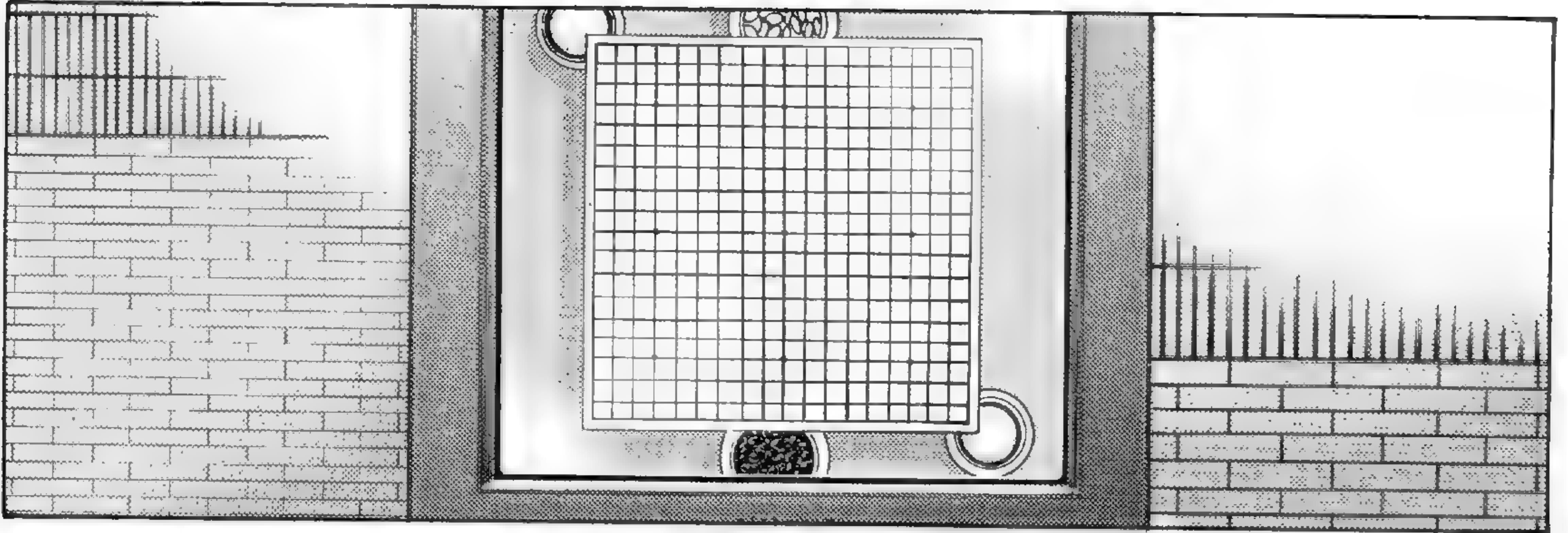
OKAY...



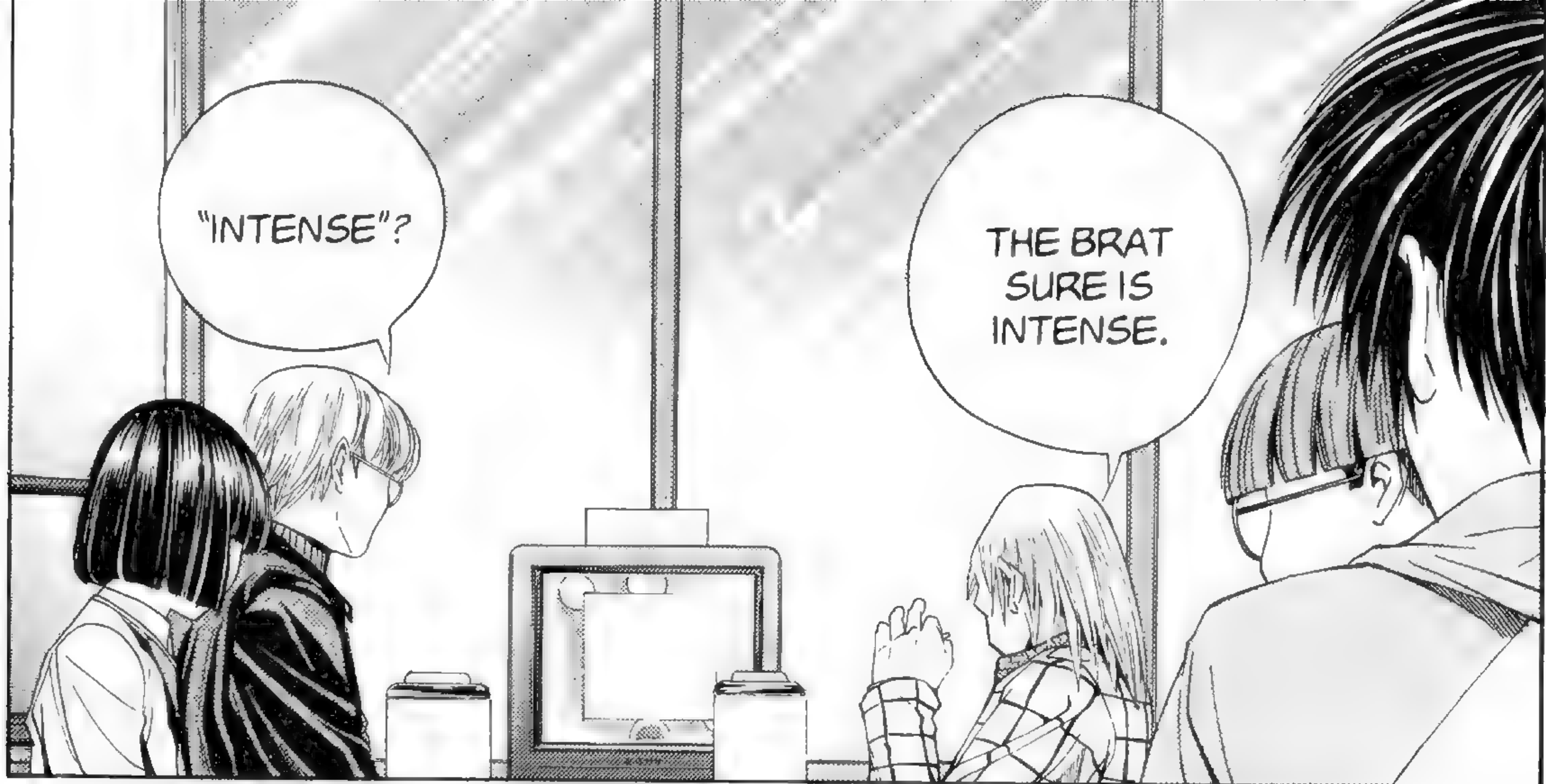












"INTENSE"?

THE BRAT  
SURE IS  
INTENSE.



HE  
SHOULD  
HAVE  
DECIDED  
ON HIS  
FIRST  
MOVE  
LONG  
BEFORE  
THE GAME  
STARTED.

HE  
KNEW  
WHO HIS  
OPPO-  
NENT  
WOULD  
BE!



OR IS HE JUST  
TOO NERVOUS  
TO PICK UP A  
STONE?!

HYAH HA HA!



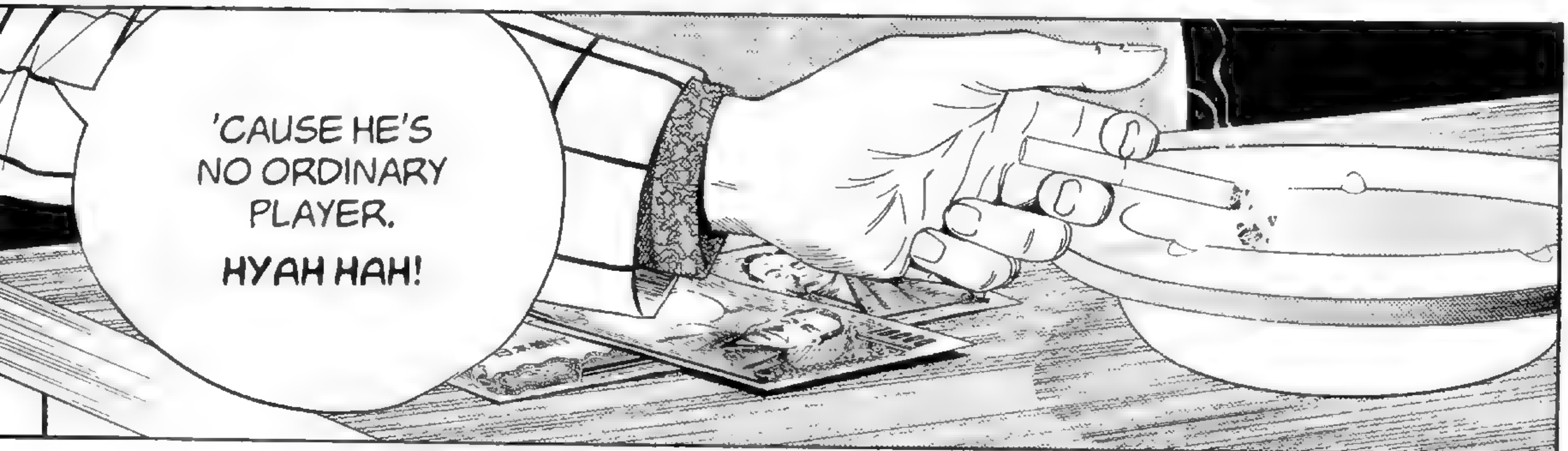
WHAT  
IS HE  
THINKING?



IT'S FOOLISH  
TO WASTE  
20 MINUTES  
LIKE THIS!

EACH  
PLAYER  
HAS ONLY  
TWO  
HOURS.



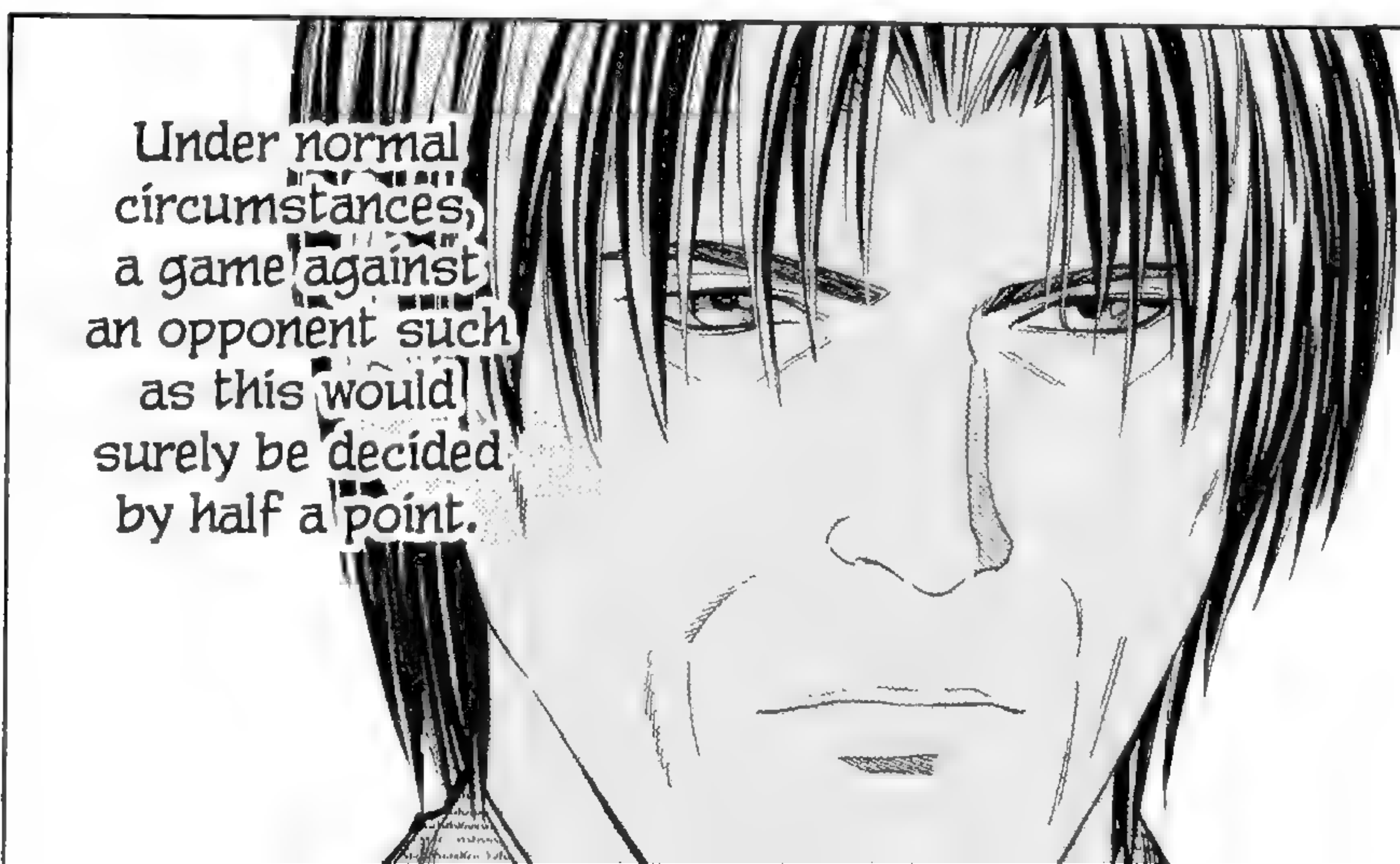






I know how  
futile that  
is...

I must  
beat him  
by over  
15  
points.



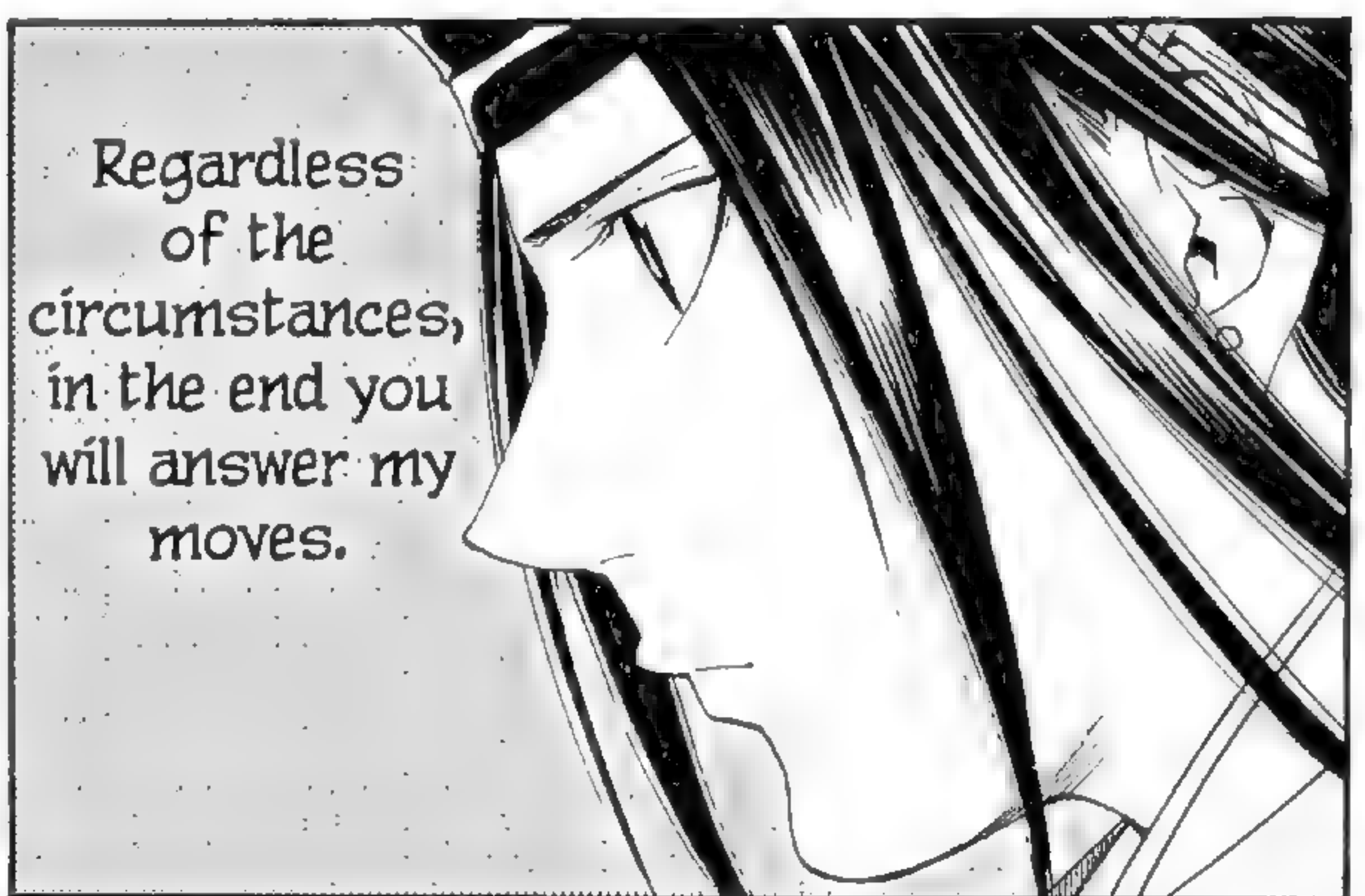
Under normal  
circumstances,  
a game against  
an opponent such  
as this would  
surely be decided  
by half a point.

My opponent  
is no random  
player at a  
go salon.





His  
presence  
before the  
board is as  
it was  
before...



Regardless  
of the  
circumstances,  
in the end you  
will answer my  
moves.



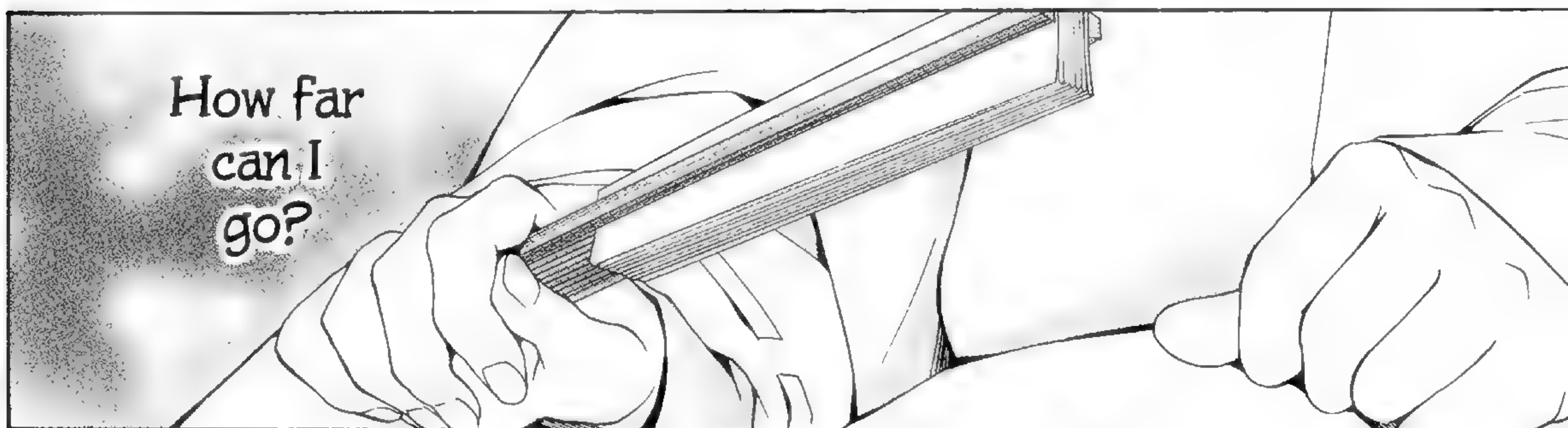
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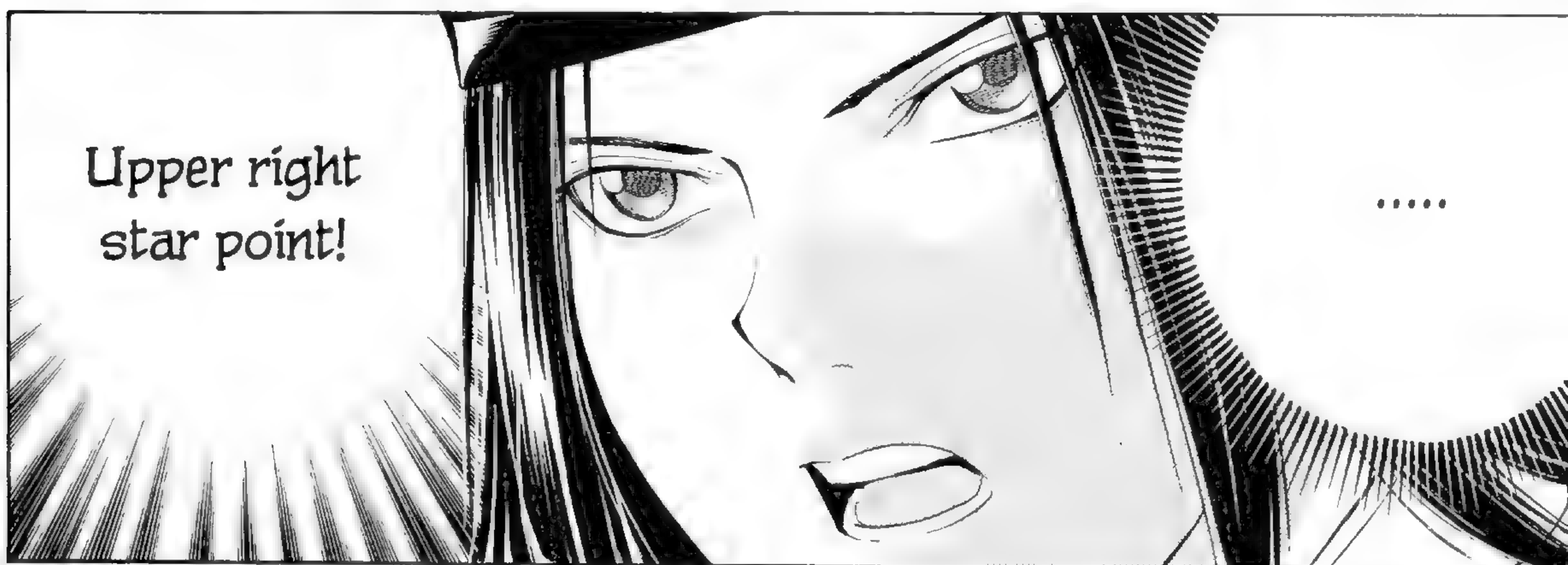


I must  
overwhelm my  
opponent or be  
completely  
overwhelmed  
myself.

I must  
win by  
over 15  
points.

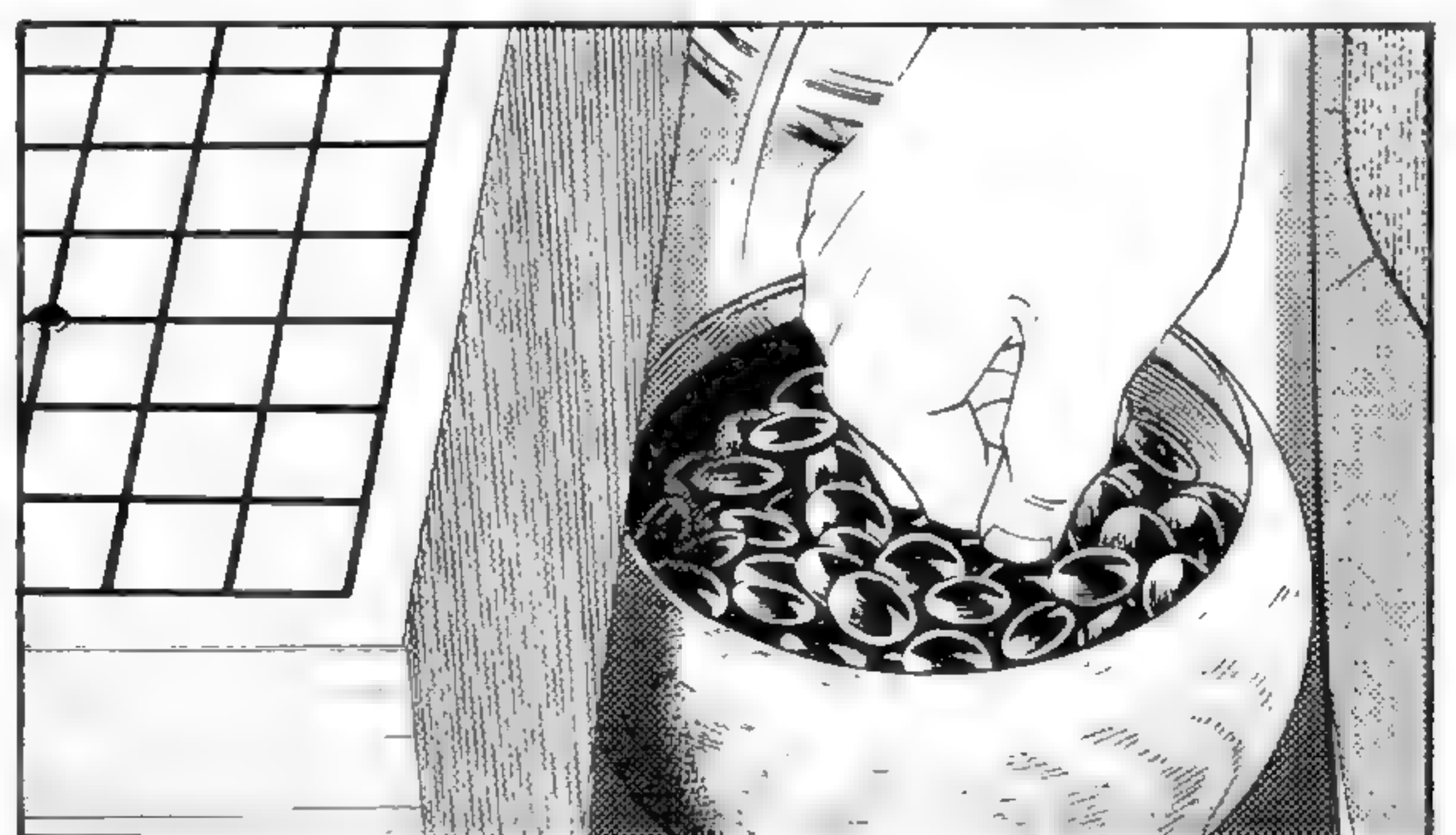
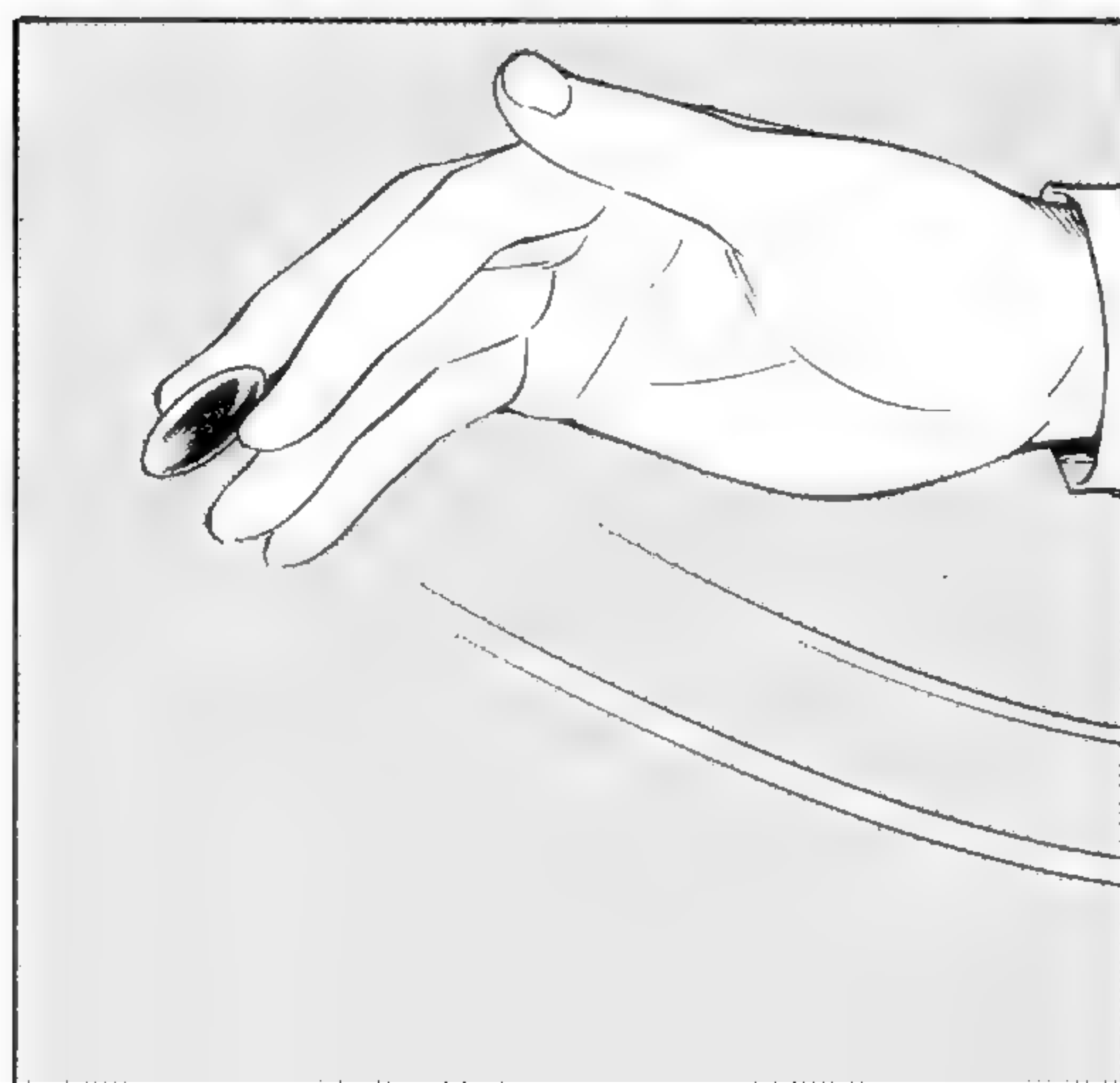


How far  
can I  
go?

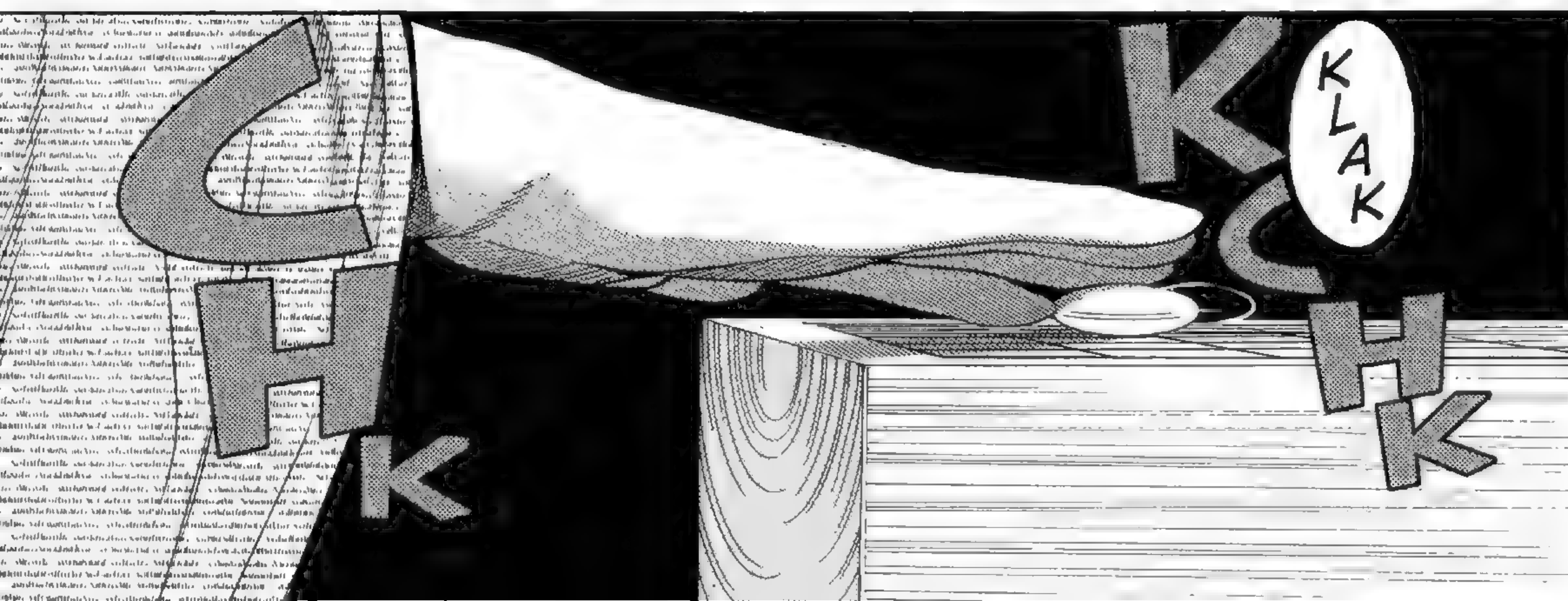


Upper right  
star point!

.....









5  
HIKARU SHINDO





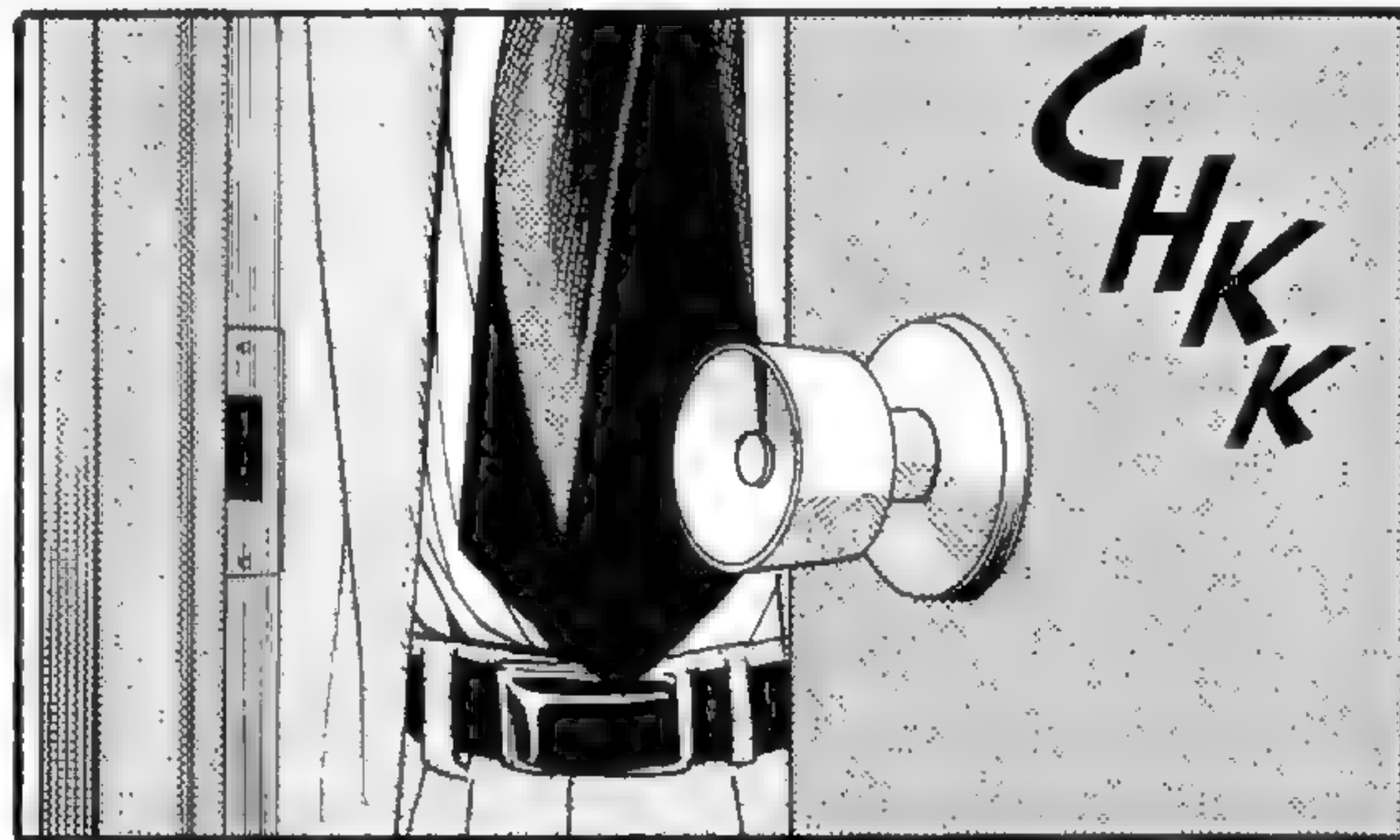
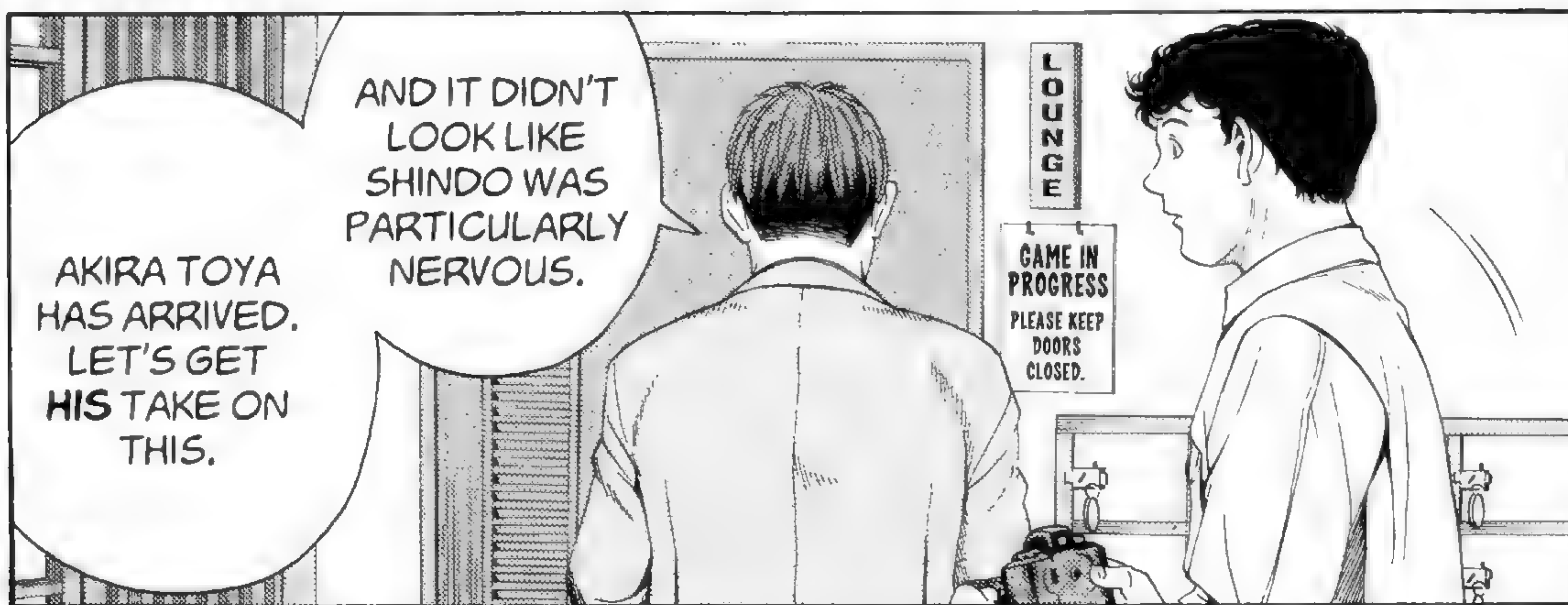
# Game 101 "A Game Most Transparent"















OGATA  
SENSEI!

KUWABARA  
SENSEI IS  
HERE TOO?!



...JUST  
FOR HIS  
OPENING  
MOVE.

SHINDO  
CERTAINLY  
SURPRISED  
US—TAKING UP  
AN ENTIRE  
20 MIN-  
UTES...

SHUT



...RIGHT?

SURE ATE  
UP A LOT  
OF TIME, EH,  
AMANO? IT'S  
NOT AS IF THE  
START OF  
THE GAME  
WAS  
DELAYED...



UH...  
THAT'S  
RIGHT,  
SIR.









RE-  
REQUESTED  
SHINDO?!



HE RE-  
REQUESTED  
THE BRAT,  
EH?



AKIRA'S  
RIVAL?



ENOUGH  
ALREADY!

WAYA,  
WHAT'S  
WITH-

MUST BE  
BECAUSE AKIRA  
CONSIDERS  
SHINDO A RIVAL  
OF SORTS...



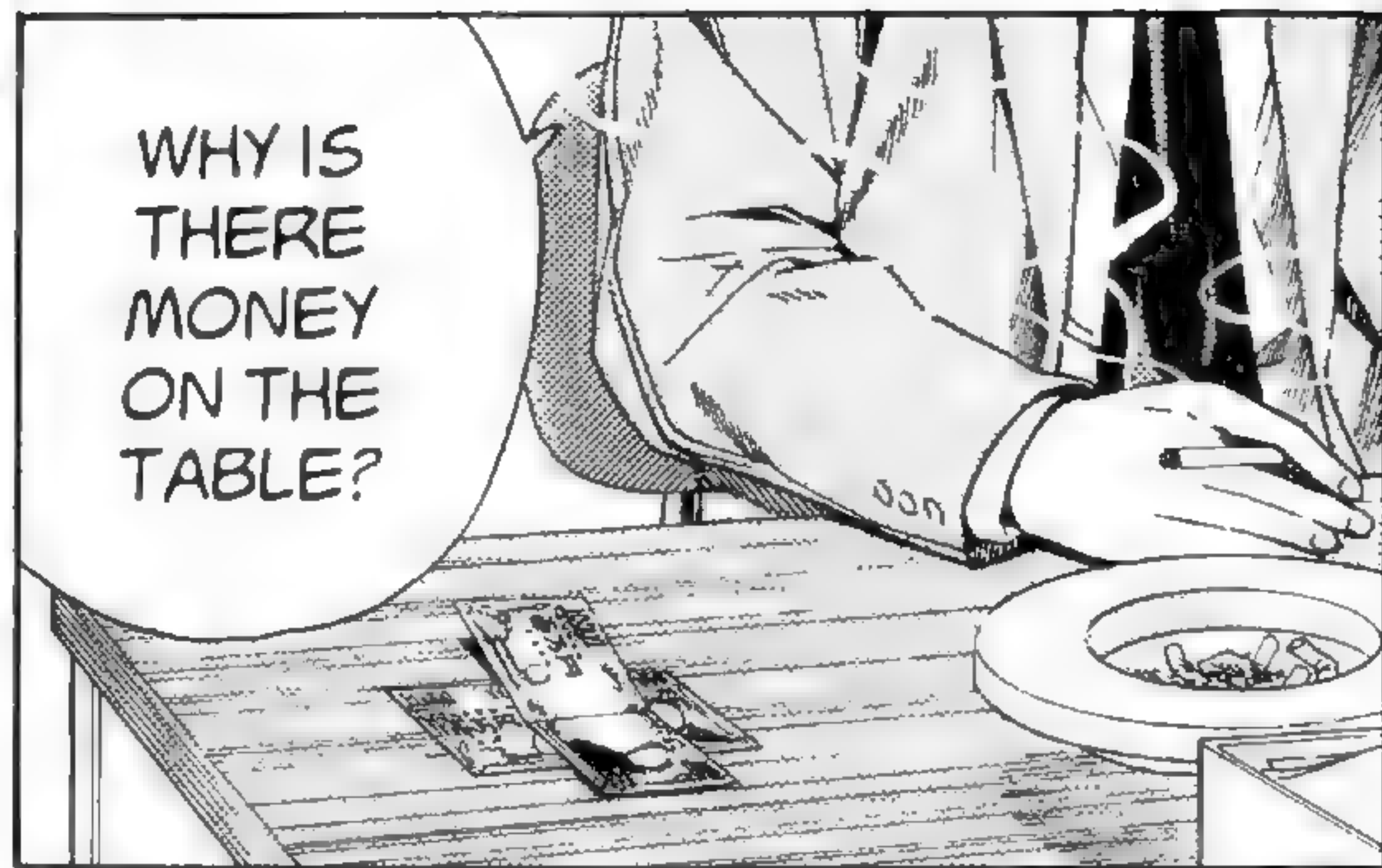
WELL,  
THAT'S...



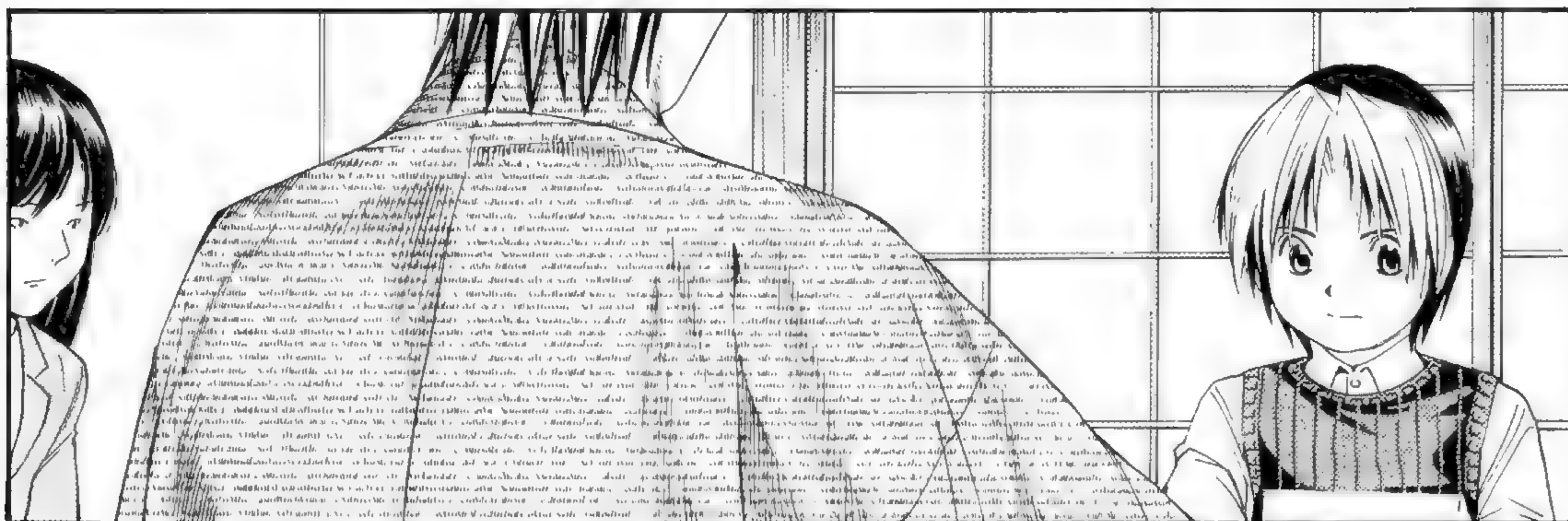
HE'S LIKE  
ME-GOT A  
HEALTHY  
SIXTH SENSE  
WORKING  
FOR HIM.

AKIRA'S GOT  
NOTHING TO  
DO WITH IT.  
TOYA MEIJIN IS  
INTRIGUED BY  
THE KID.

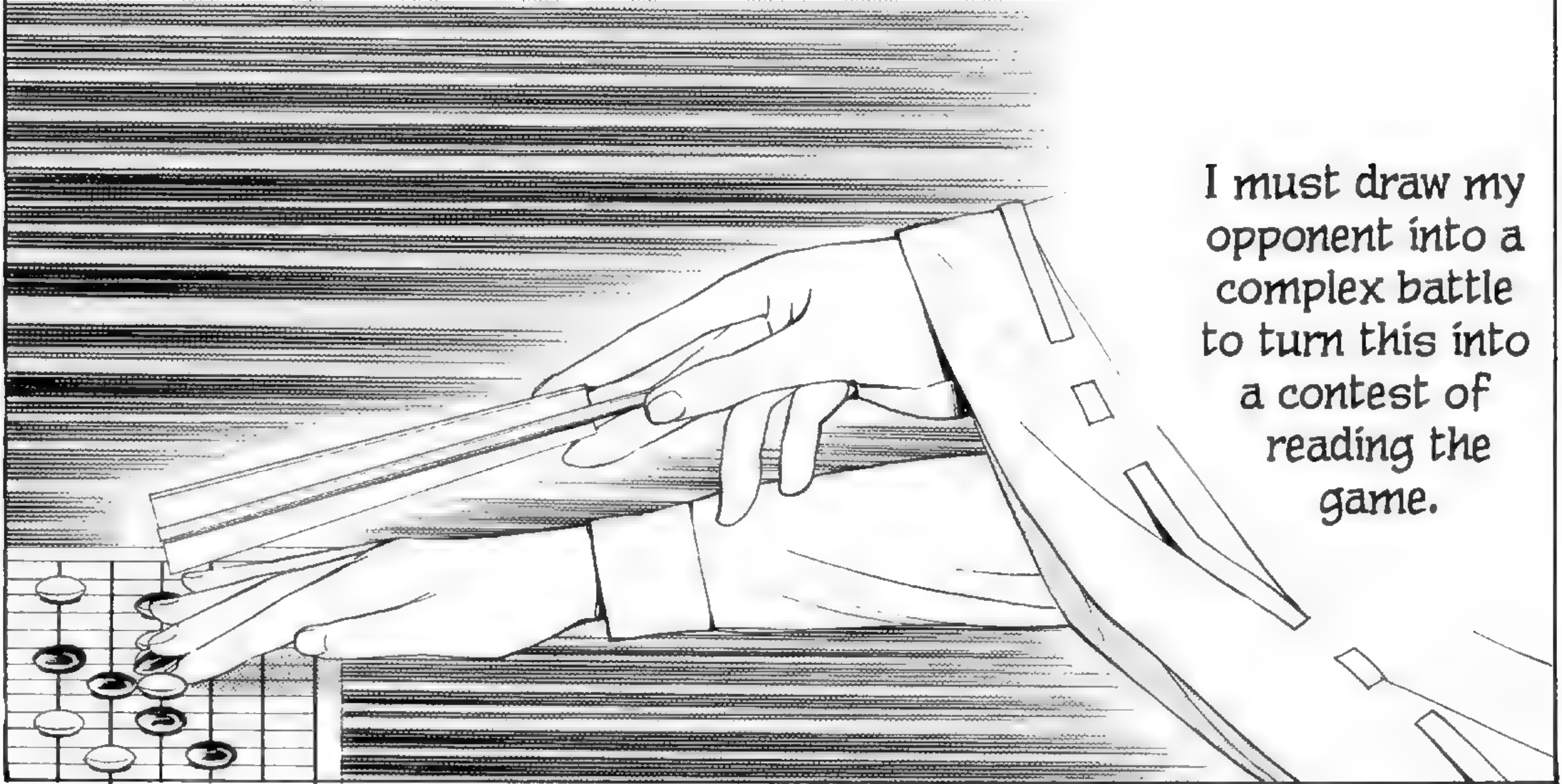




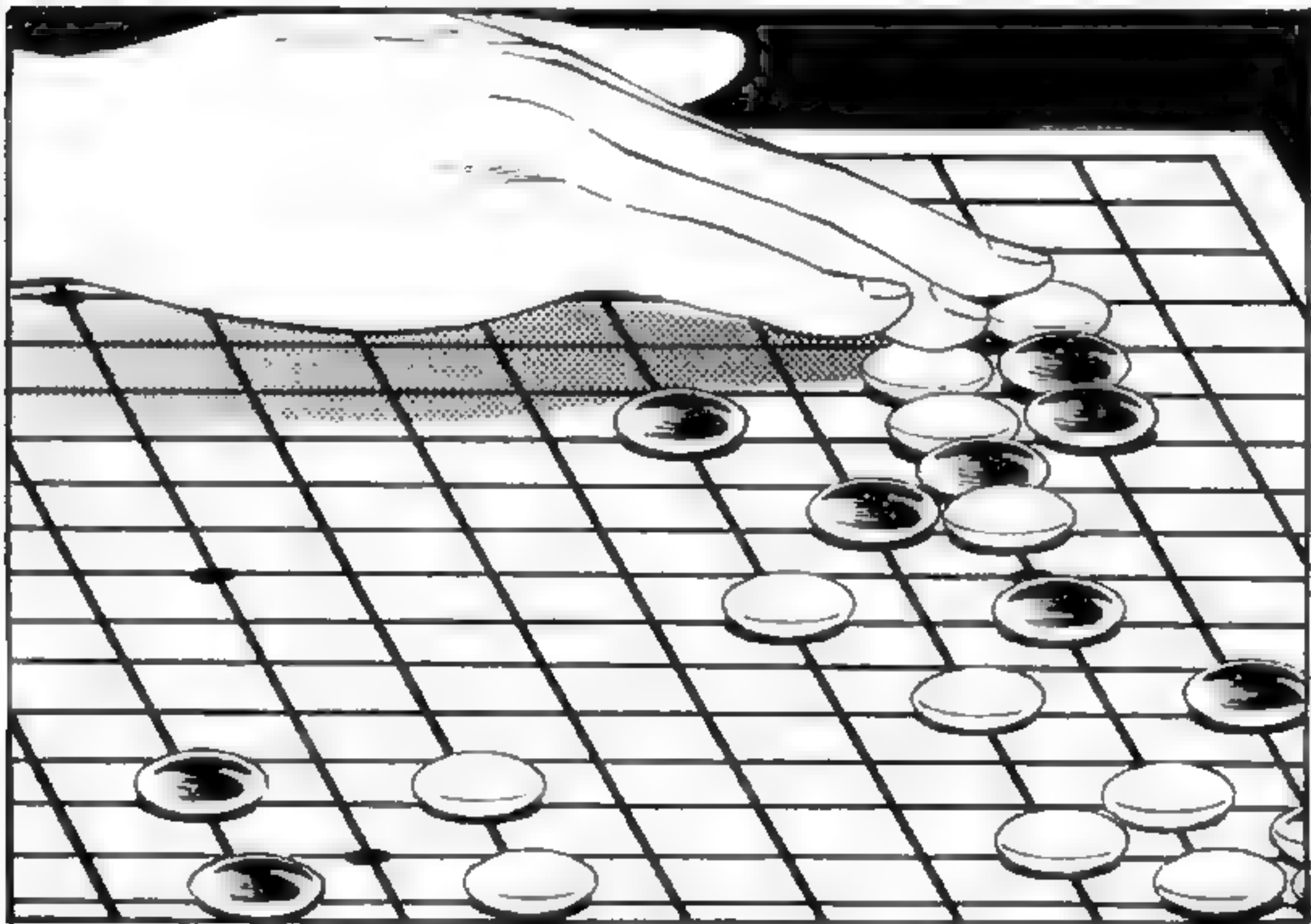








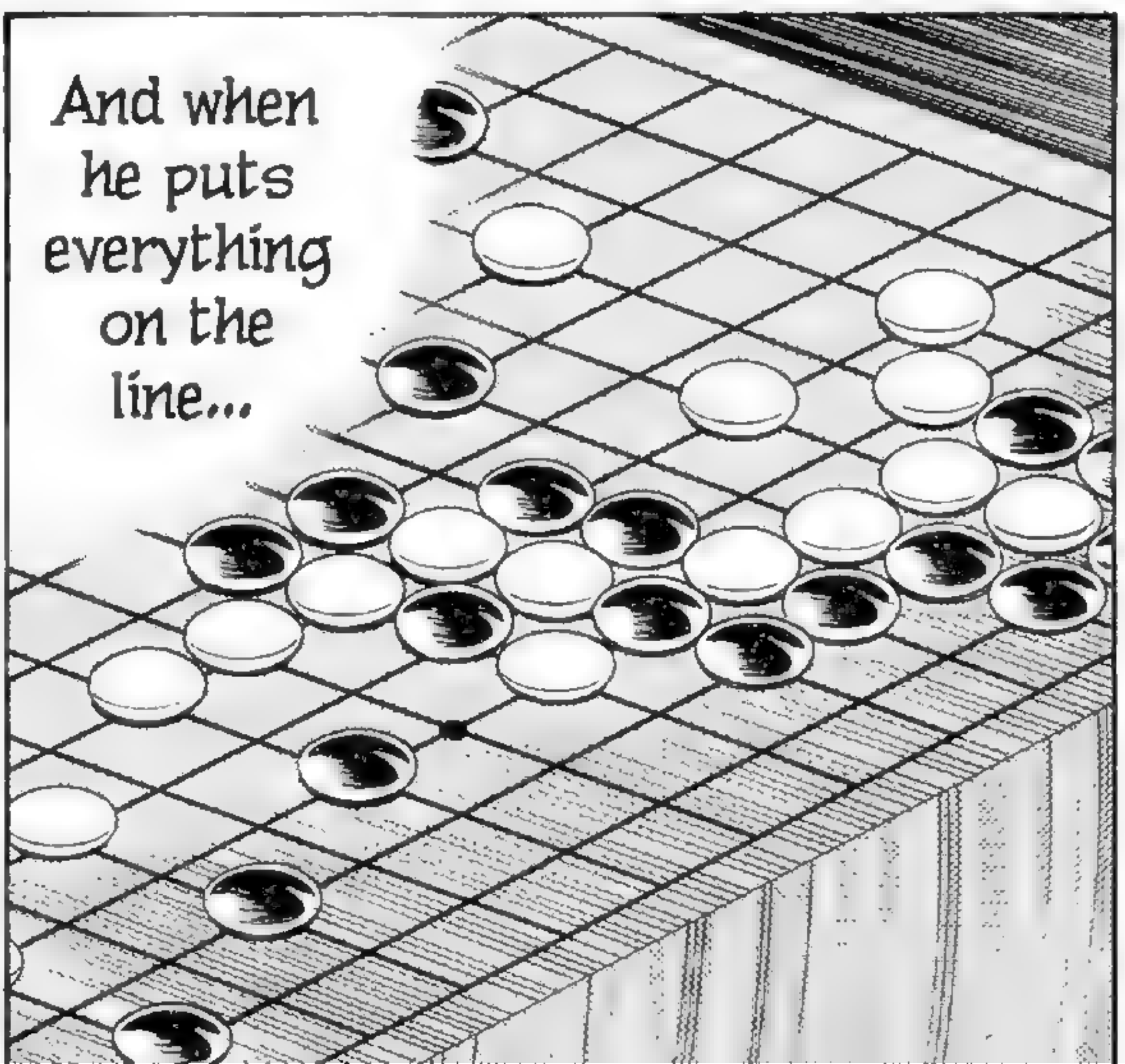
I must draw my  
opponent into a  
complex battle  
to turn this into  
a contest of  
reading the  
game.



I shall  
intentionally  
leave openings  
that will  
tempt him to  
attack.



That's  
when  
Black will  
find a  
way out!

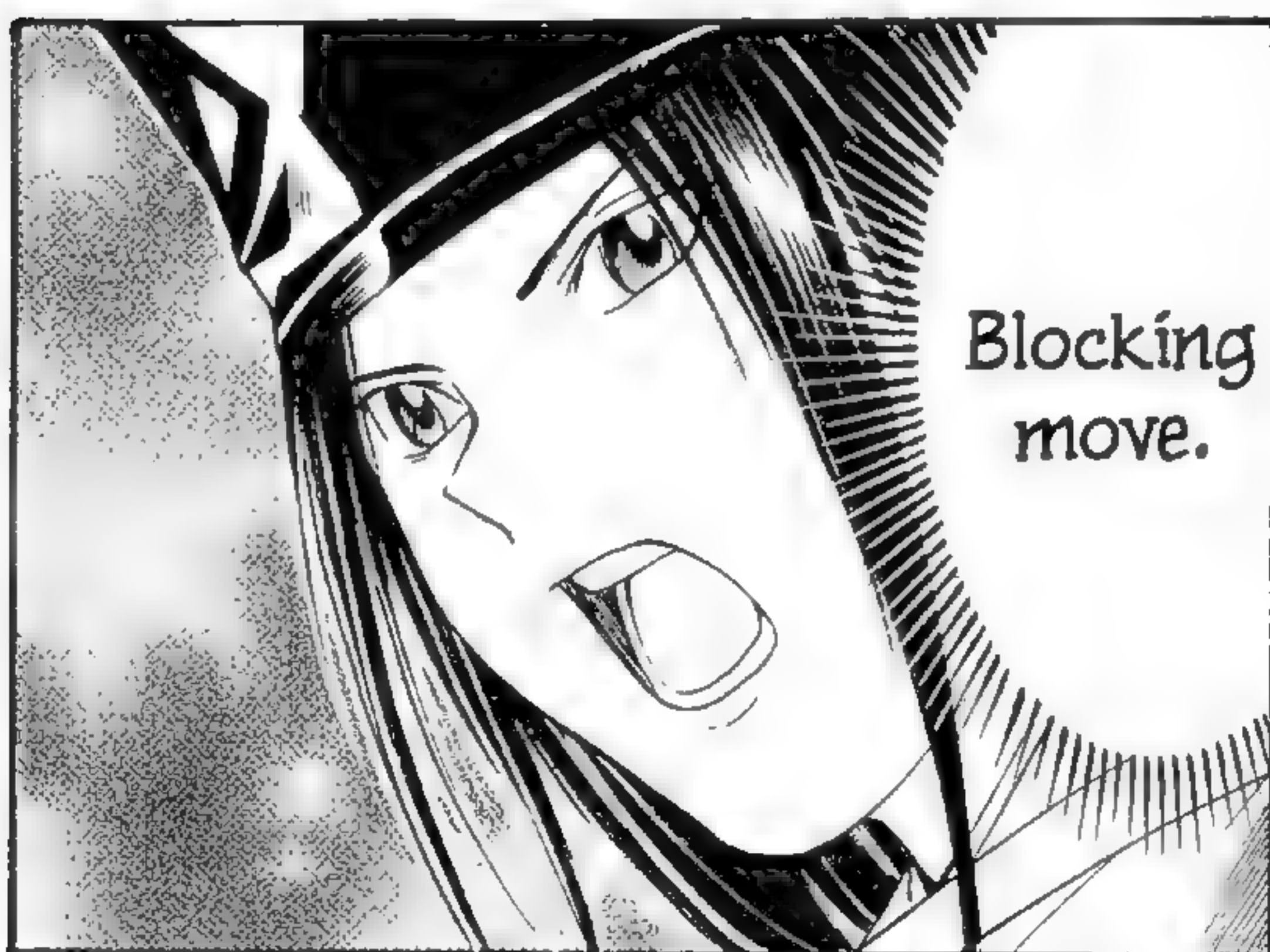


And when  
he puts  
everything  
on the  
line...



He's being  
exceedingly  
cautious.

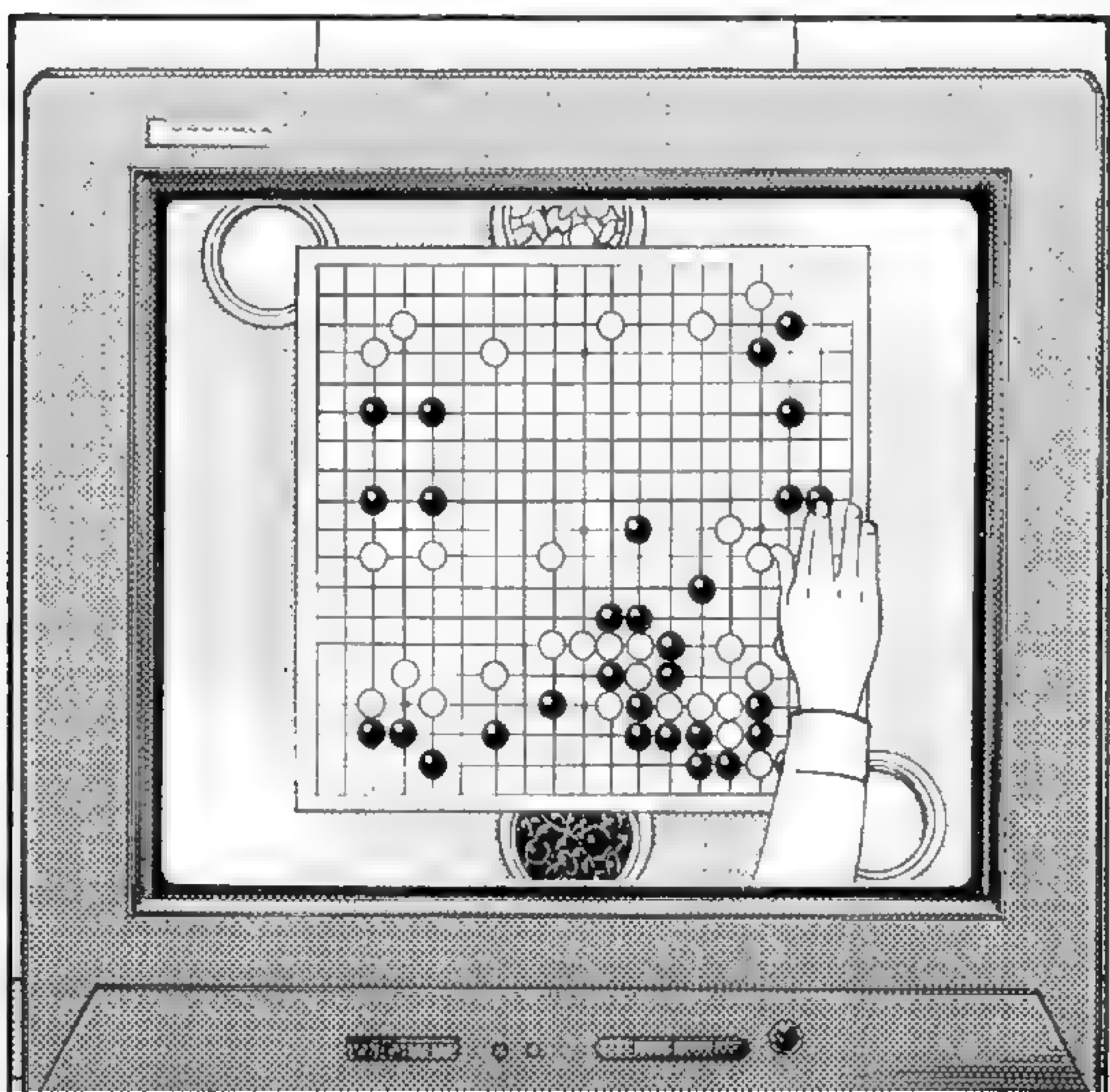
However...  
he's not  
playing as  
I hoped.



Blocking  
move.

I must  
venture all.

From  
this  
point  
for-  
ward...



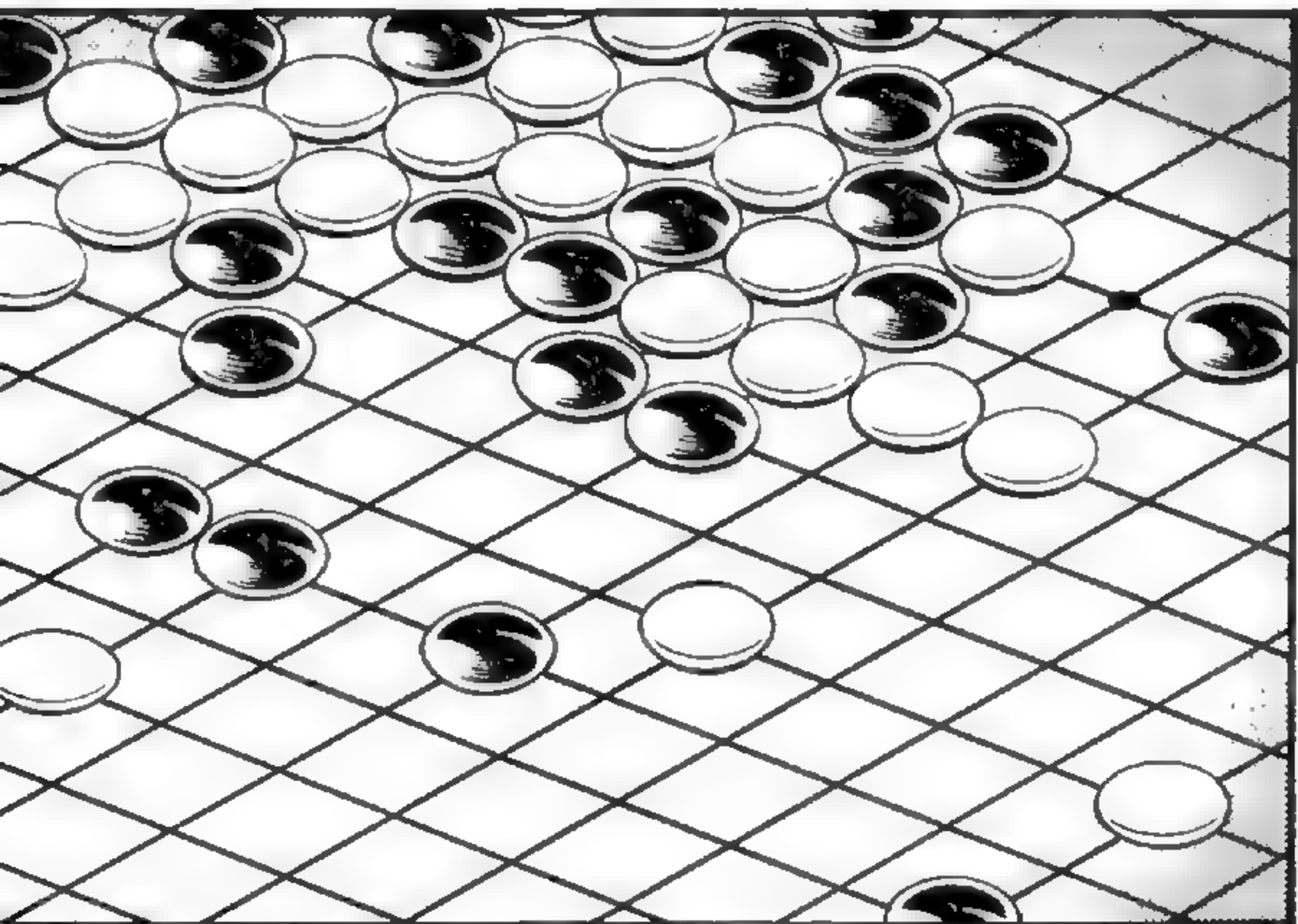




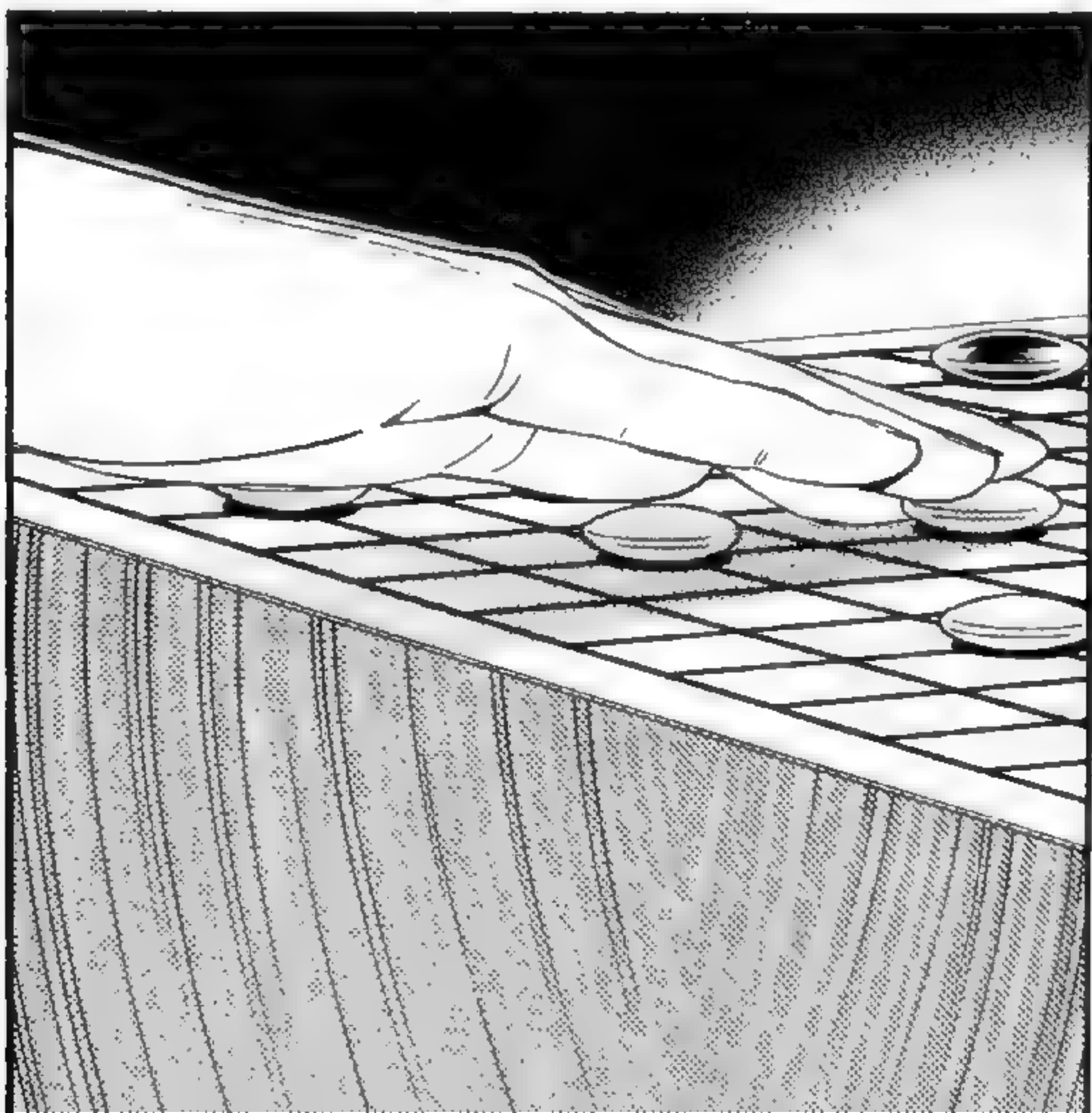




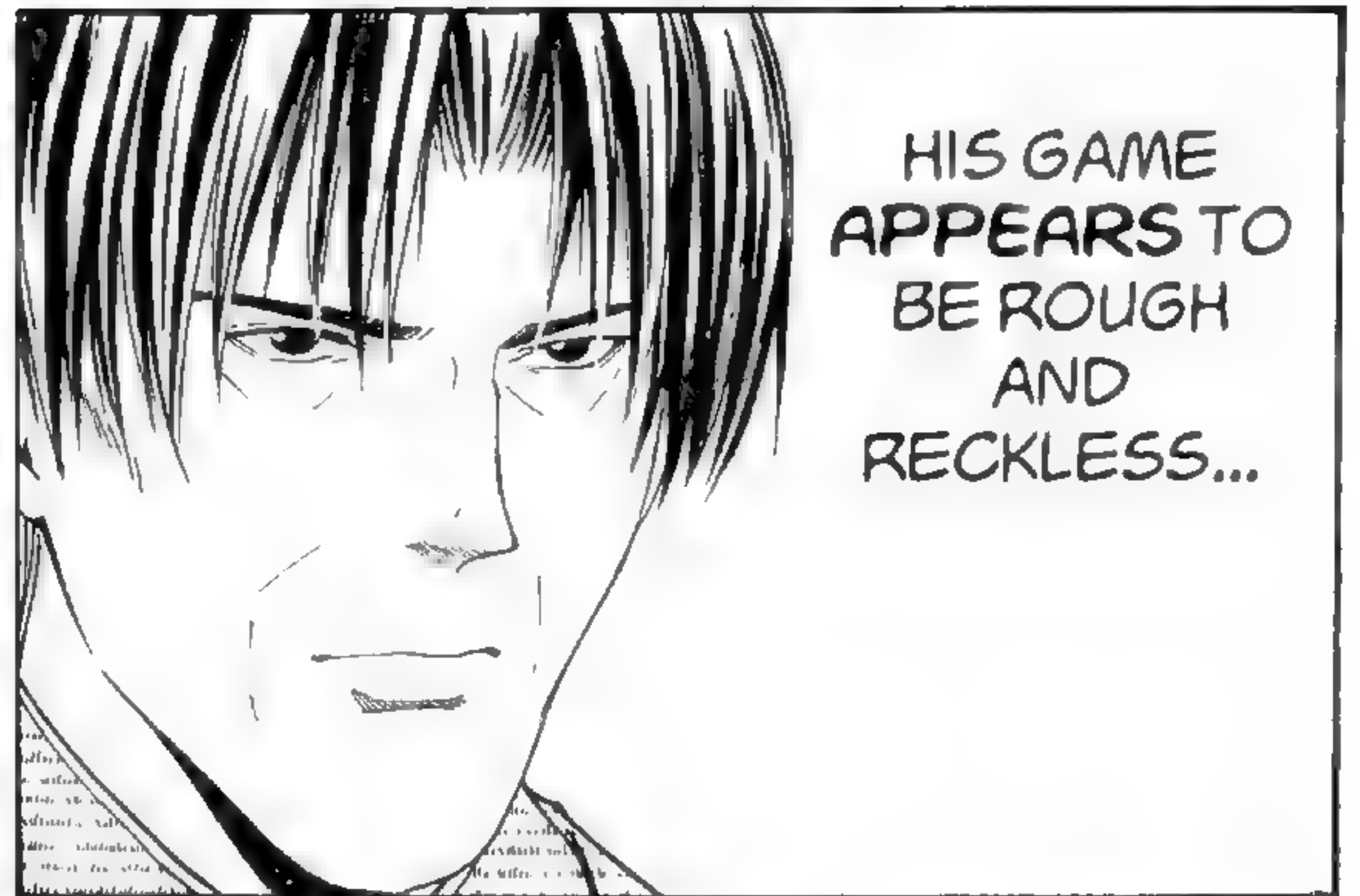




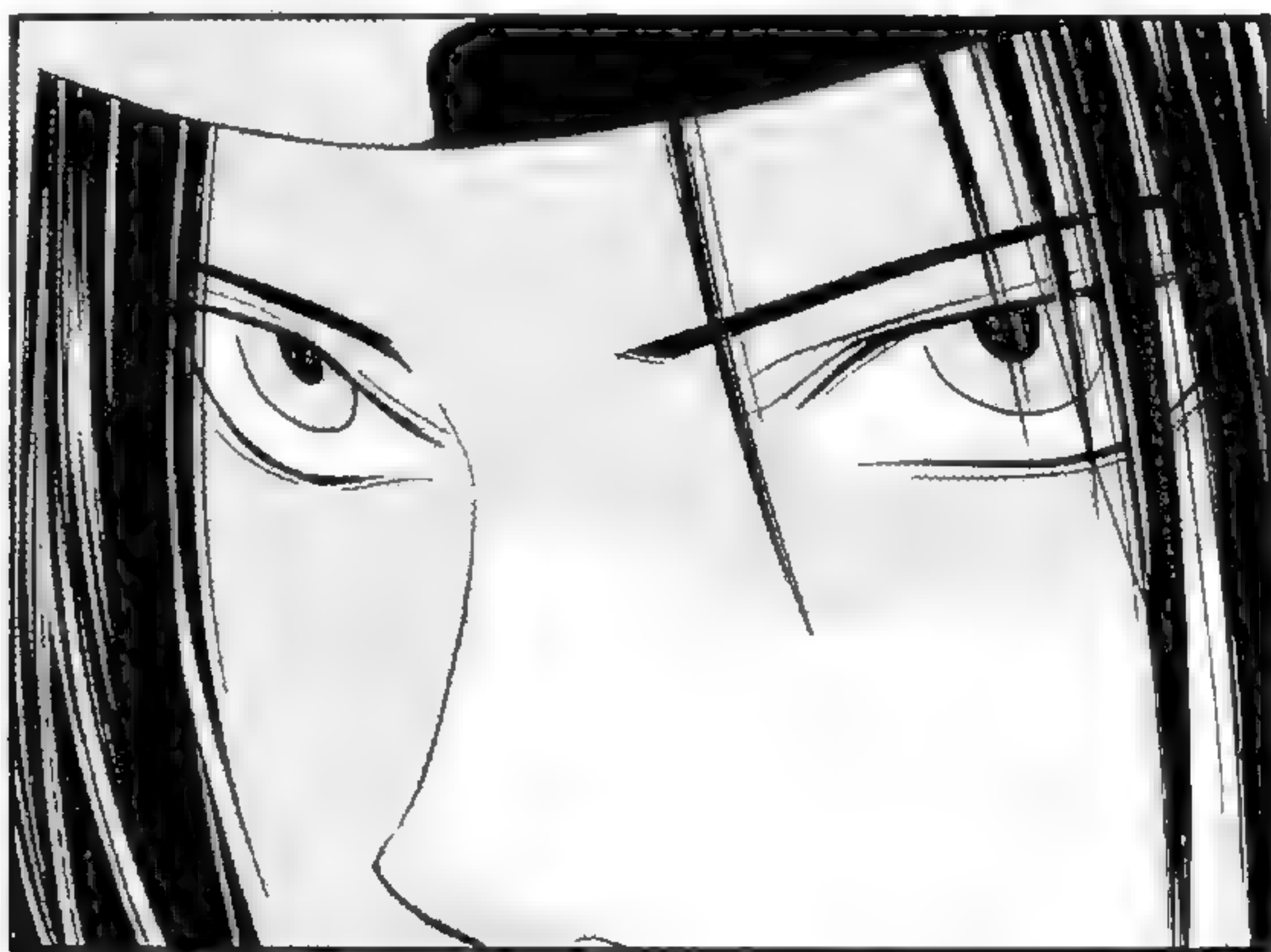
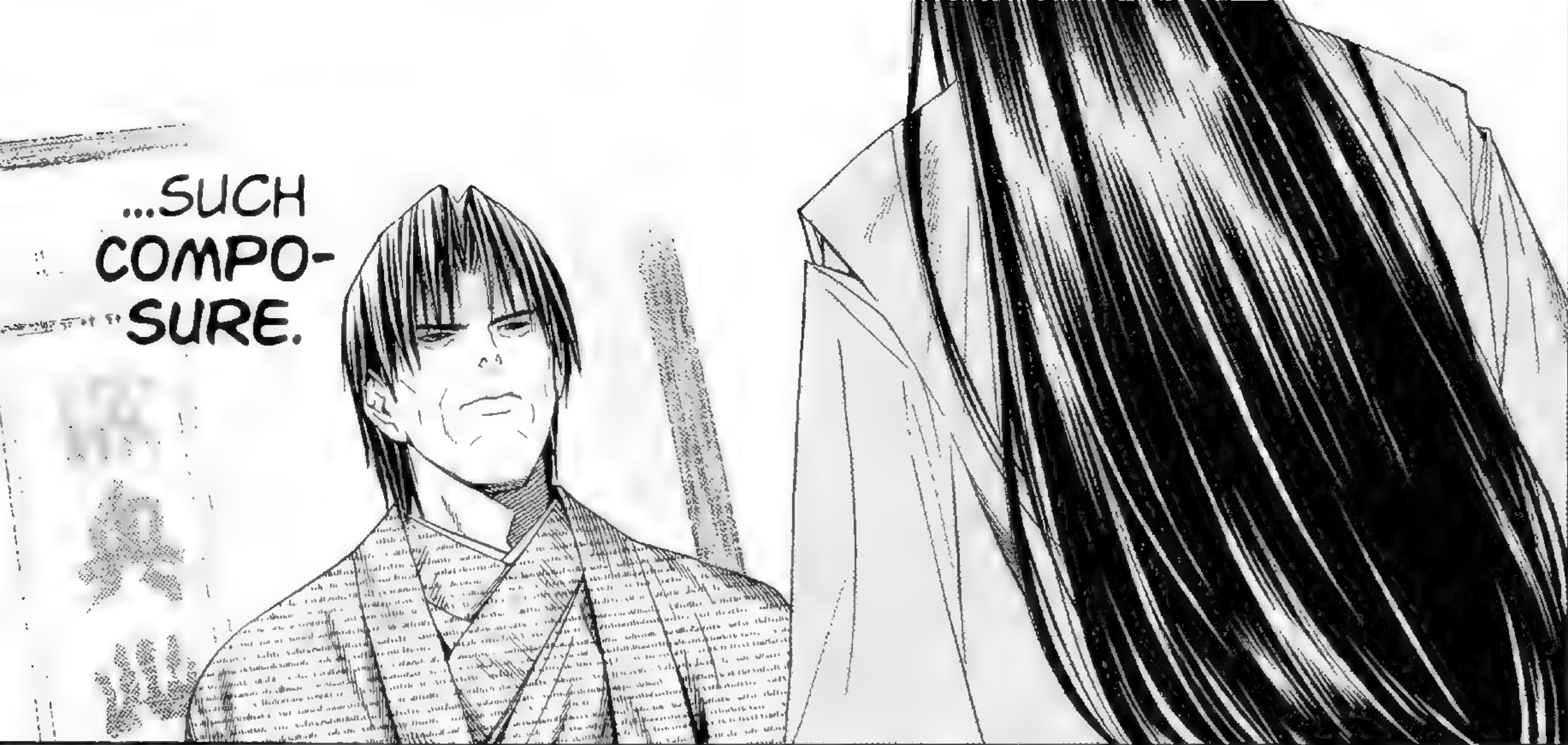
\* "Infinite Depth" - Scroll by Yasunari Kawabata.









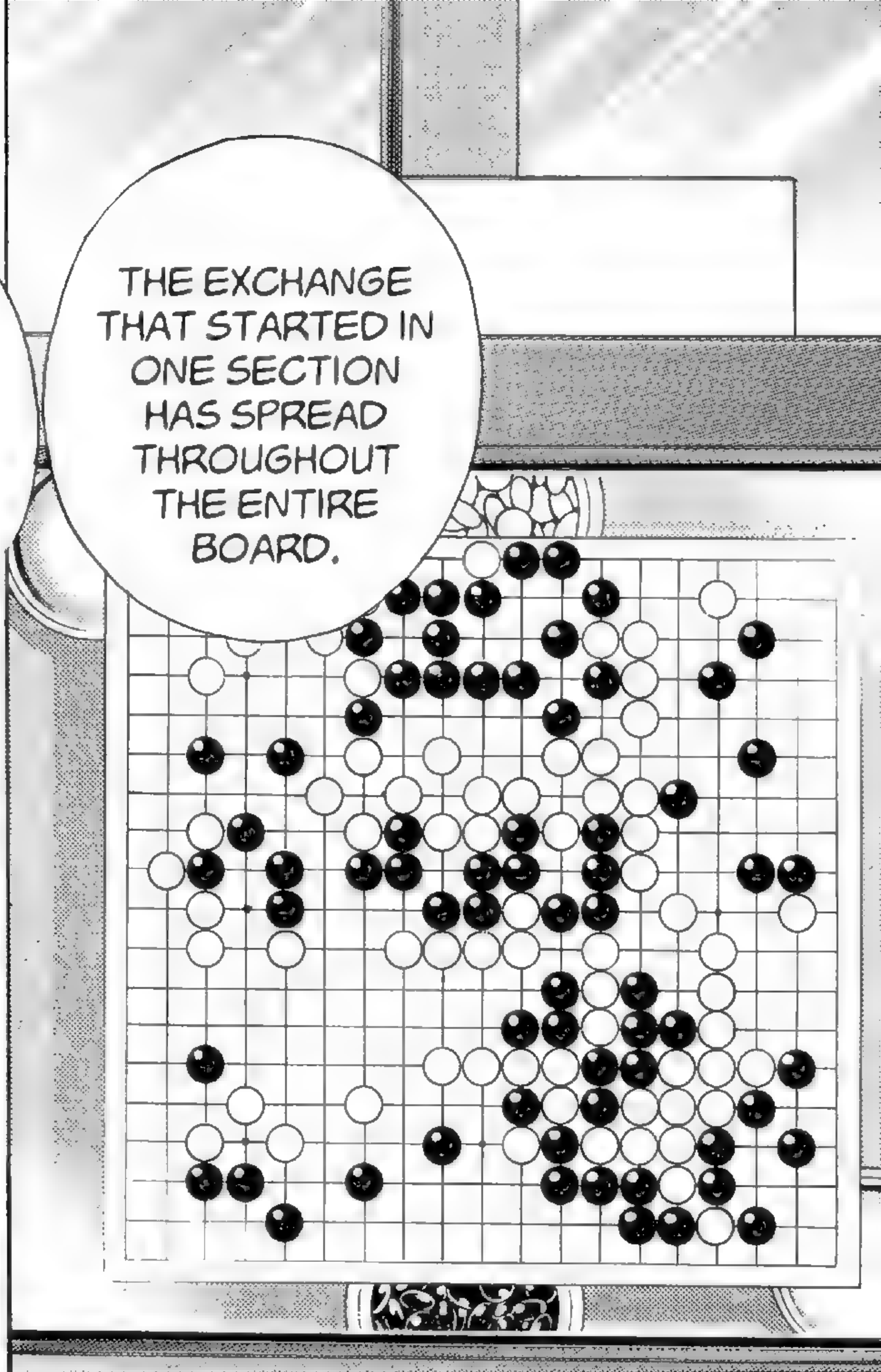




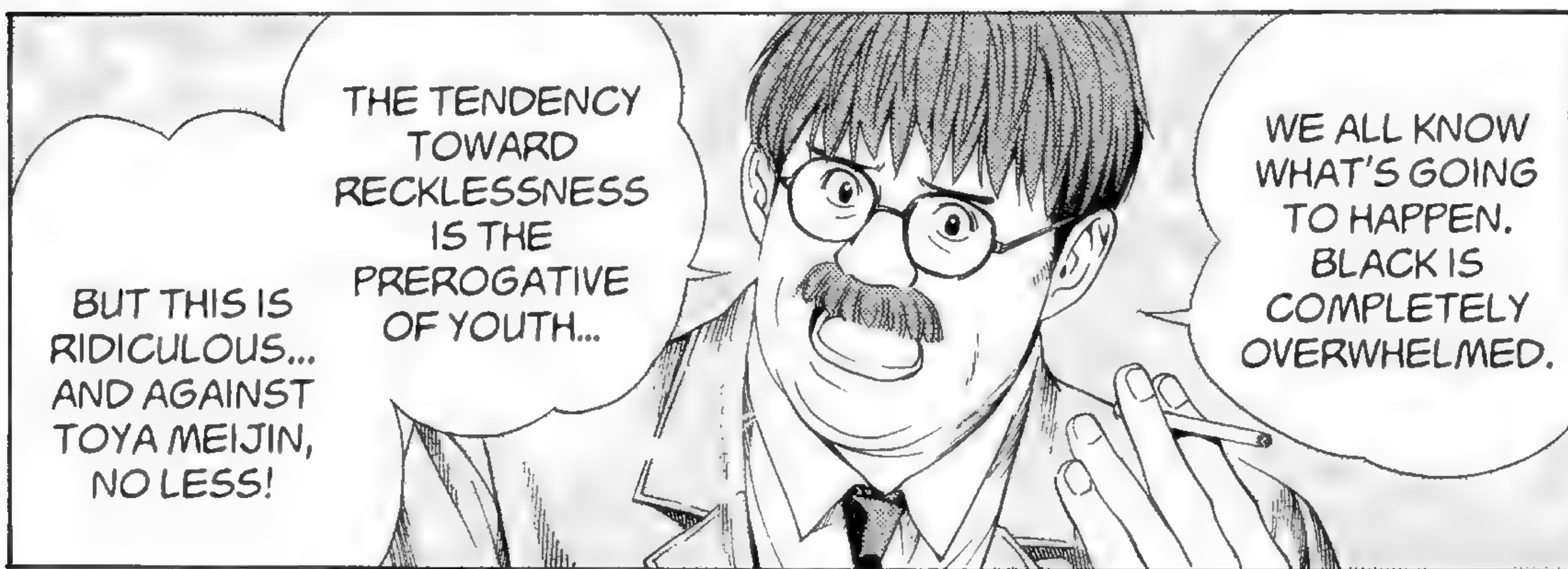


HE'S IN AN  
EXTREMELY  
DIFFICULT  
SPOT.

IT LOOKS LIKE  
SHINDO WENT UP  
AGAINST WHITE  
ALL OVER THE  
BOARD IN ORDER  
TO COMPLICATE  
THE SITUATION.



THE EXCHANGE  
THAT STARTED IN  
ONE SECTION  
HAS SPREAD  
THROUGHOUT  
THE ENTIRE  
BOARD.



BUT THIS IS  
RIDICULOUS...  
AND AGAINST  
TOYA MEIJIN,  
NO LESS!

THE TENDENCY  
TOWARD  
RECKLESSNESS  
IS THE  
PREROGATIVE  
OF YOUTH...

WE ALL KNOW  
WHAT'S GOING  
TO HAPPEN.  
BLACK IS  
COMPLETELY  
OVERWHELMED.



SHINDO...

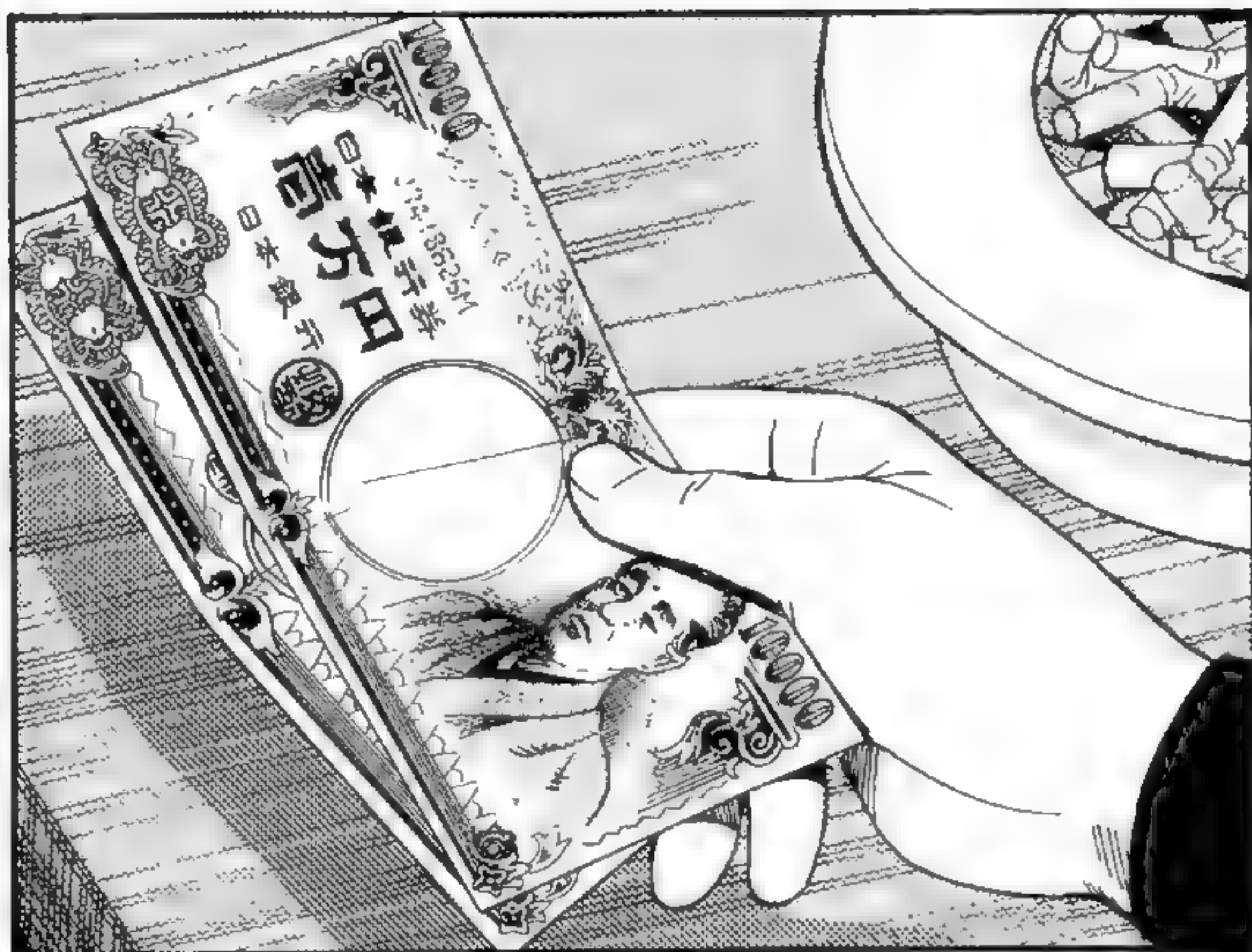












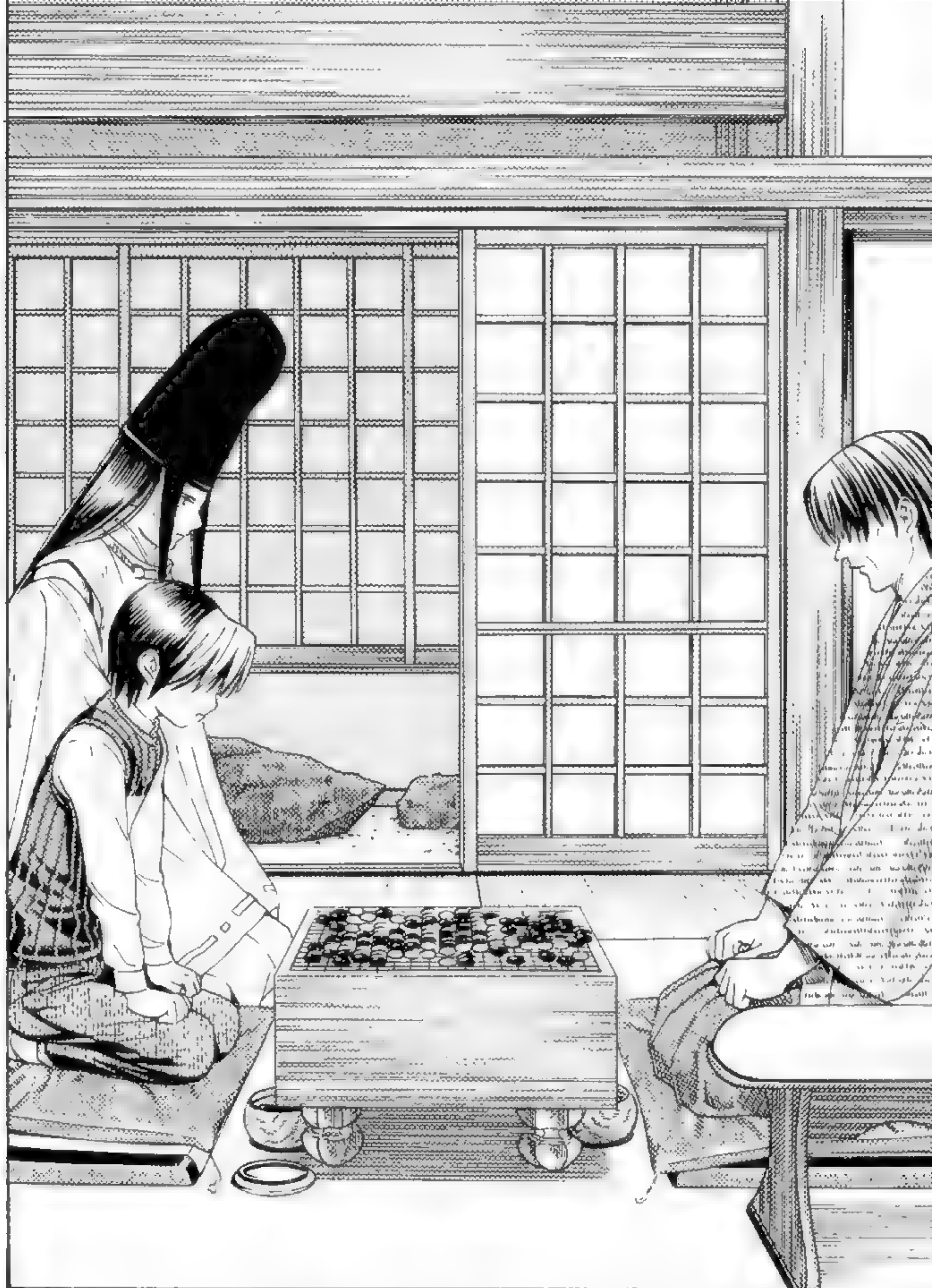




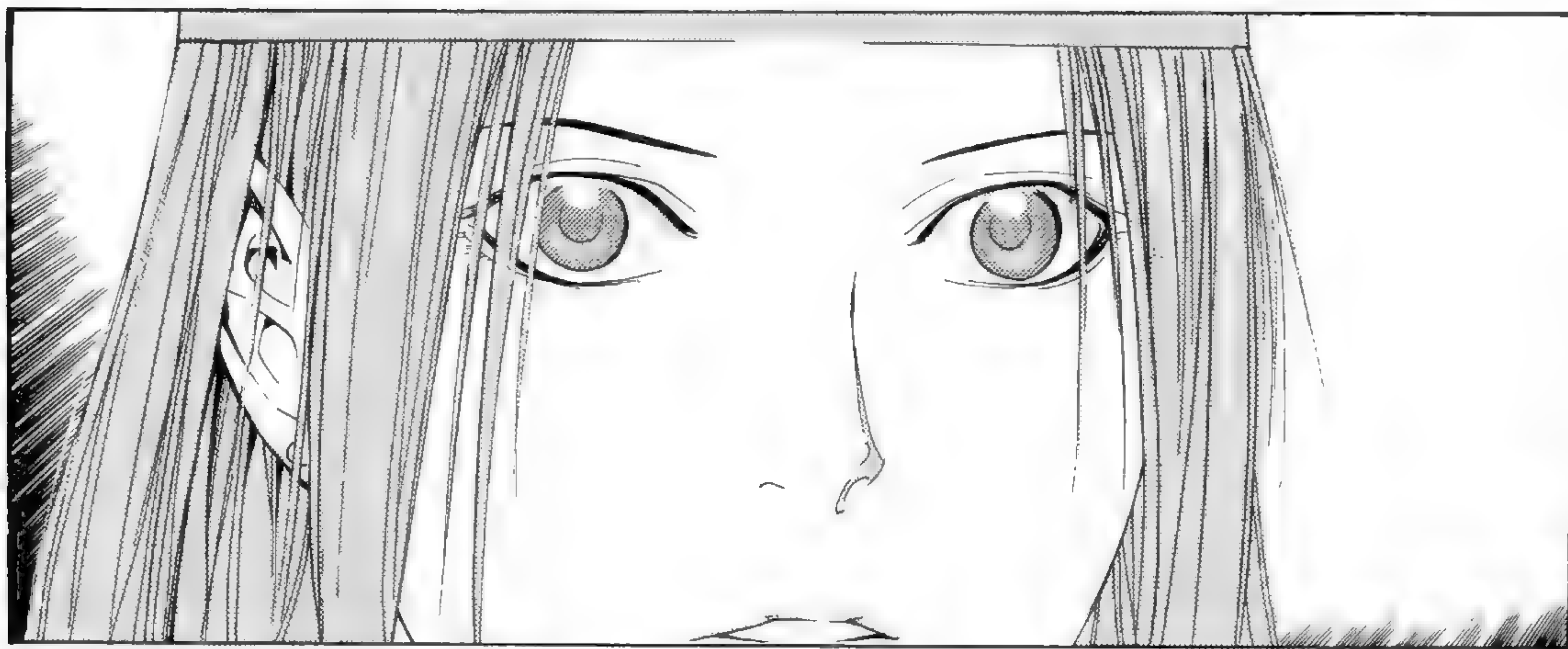


















# Game 102 "Rematch"

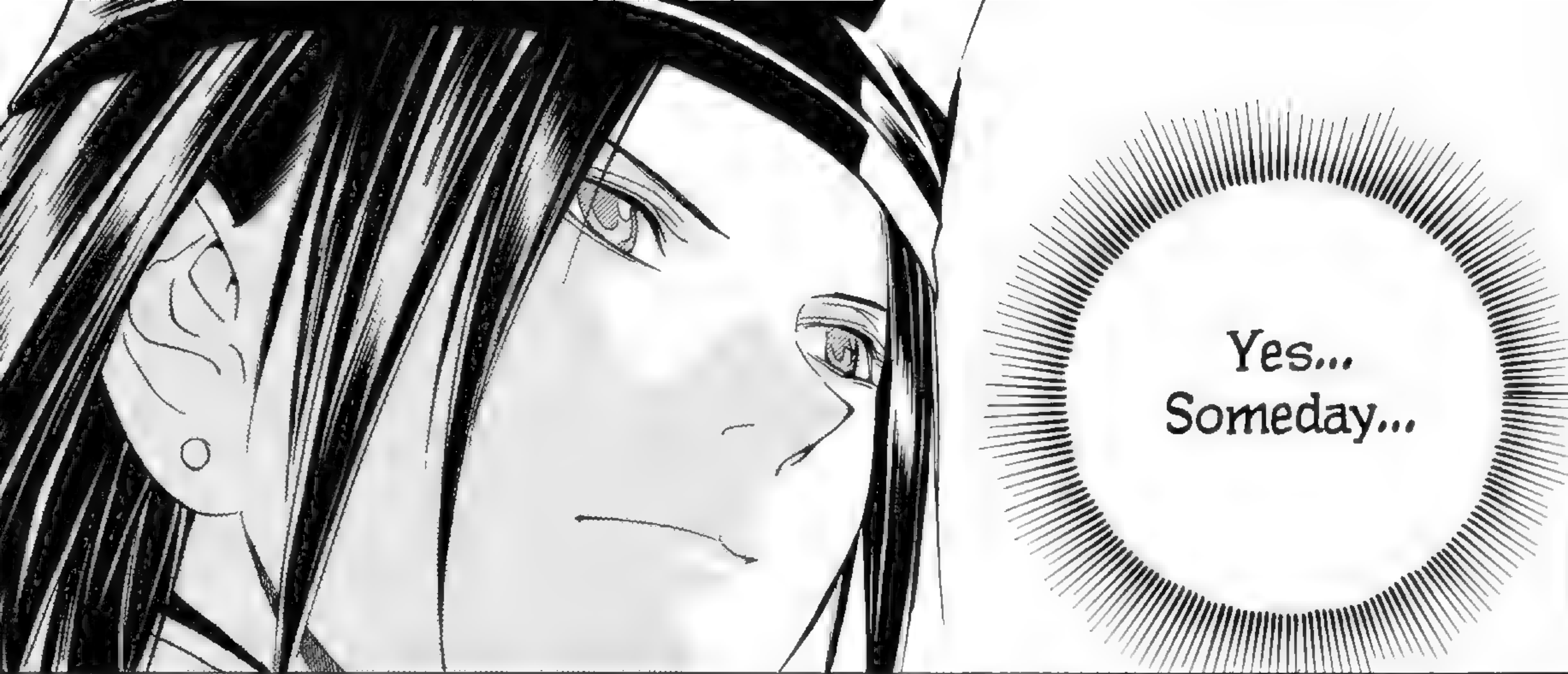


NOT ONLY DID HE SEE  
THROUGH OUR RUSE  
OF GIVING OURSELVES  
A HANDICAP...









Yes...  
Someday...

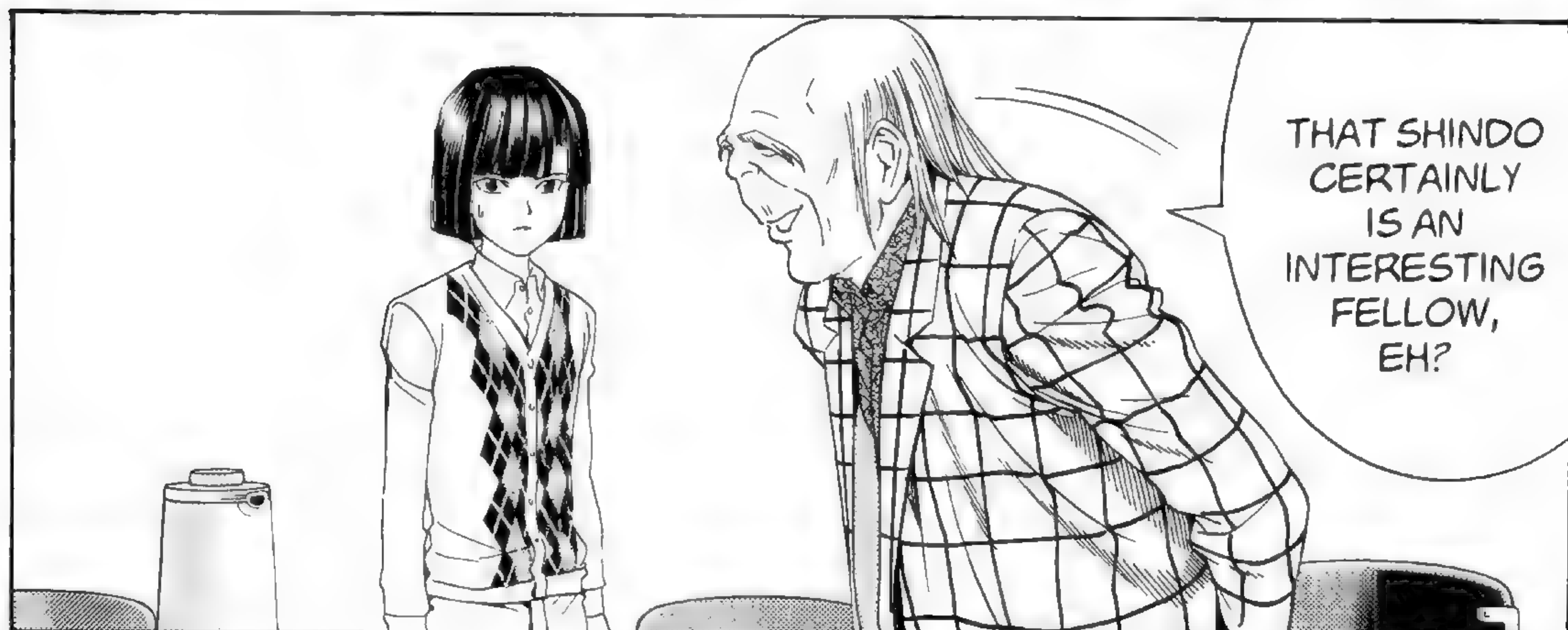
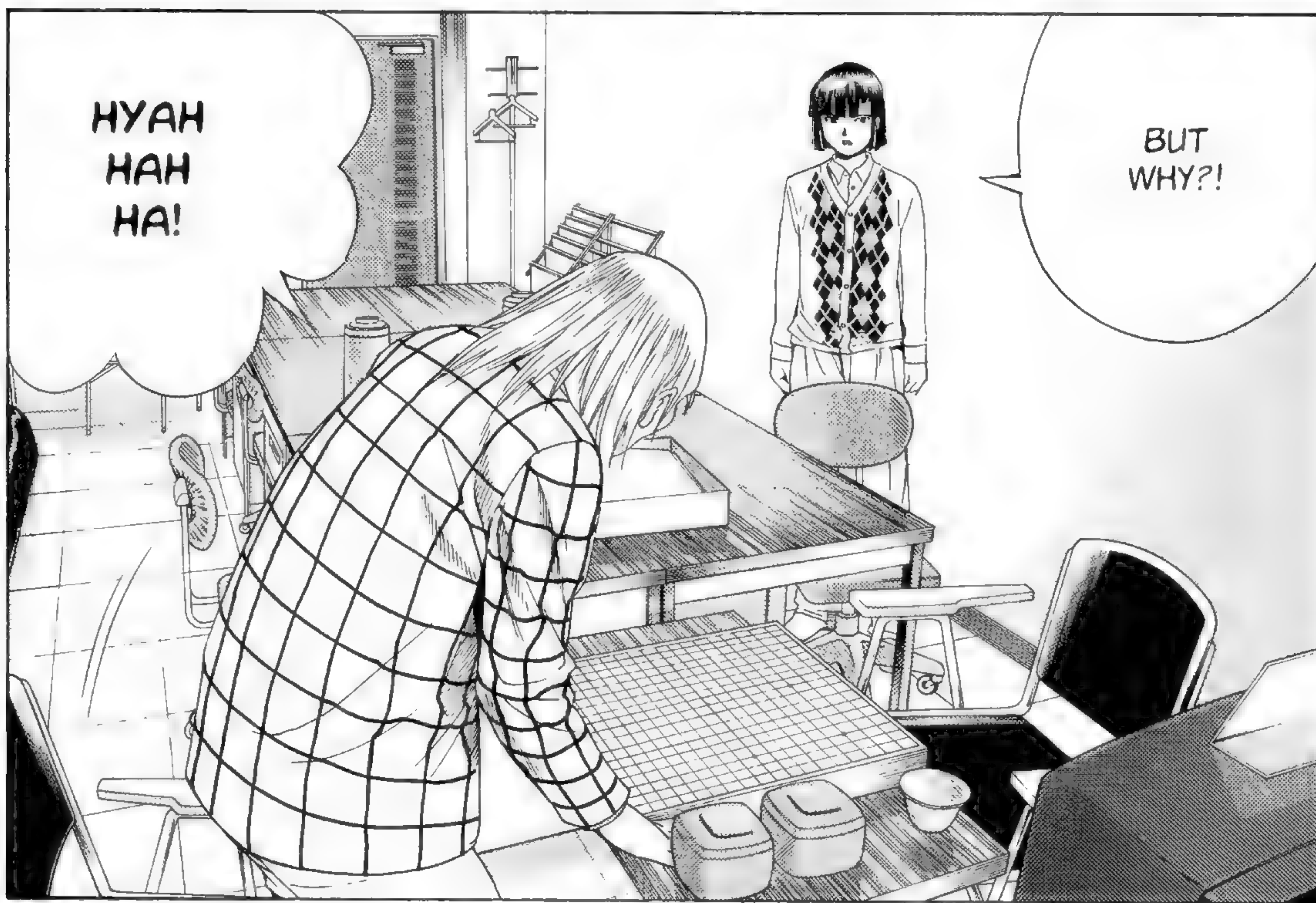


WELL THEN,  
LET'S START  
FROM THE  
BEGINNING  
...

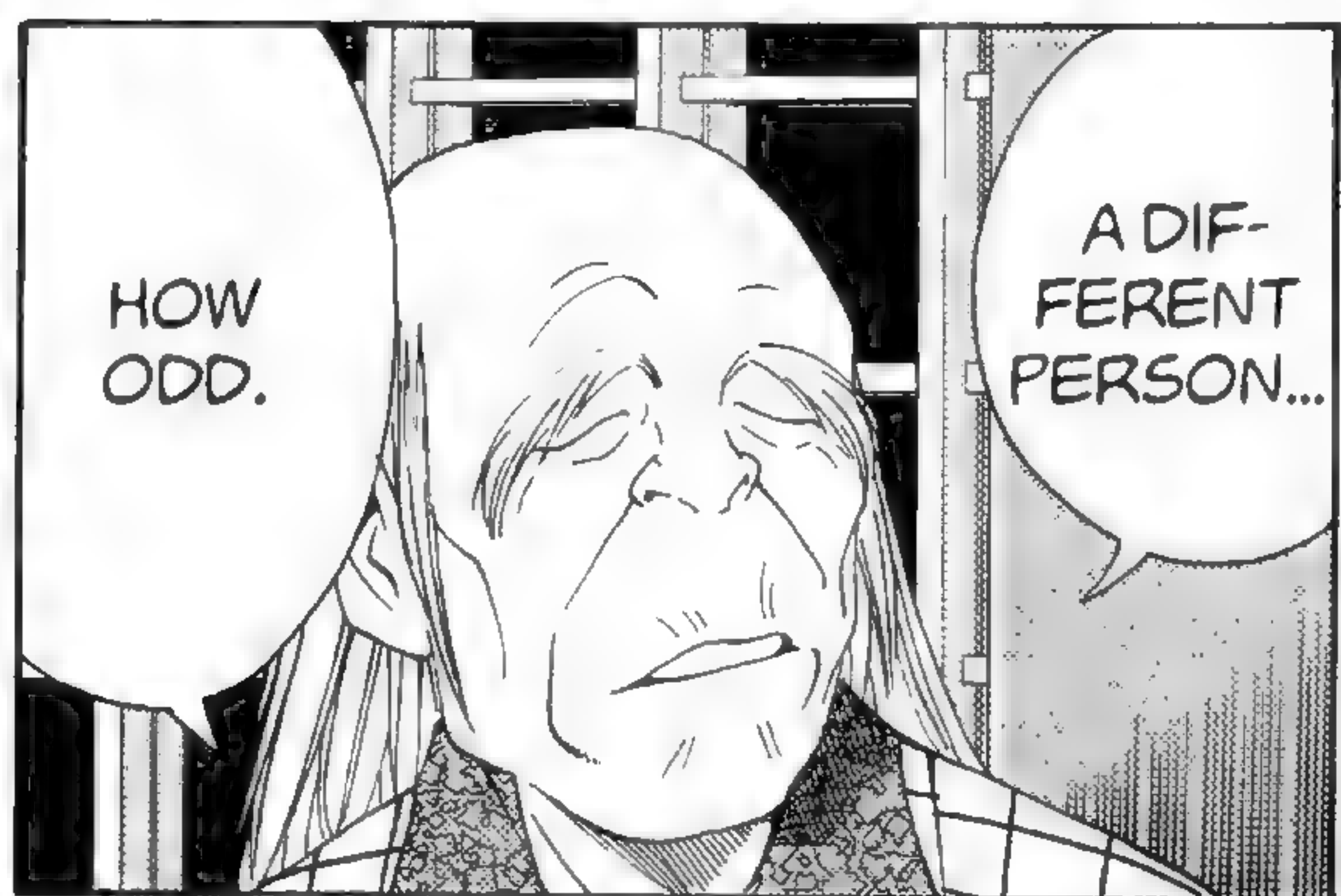


THANK YOU,  
EVERYBODY.

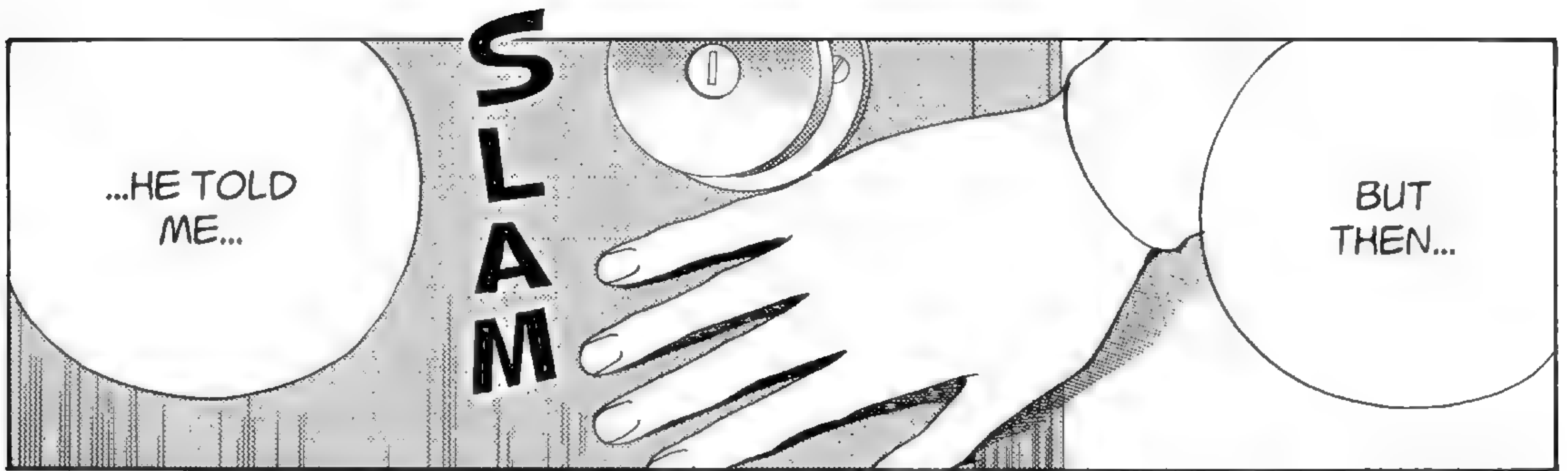




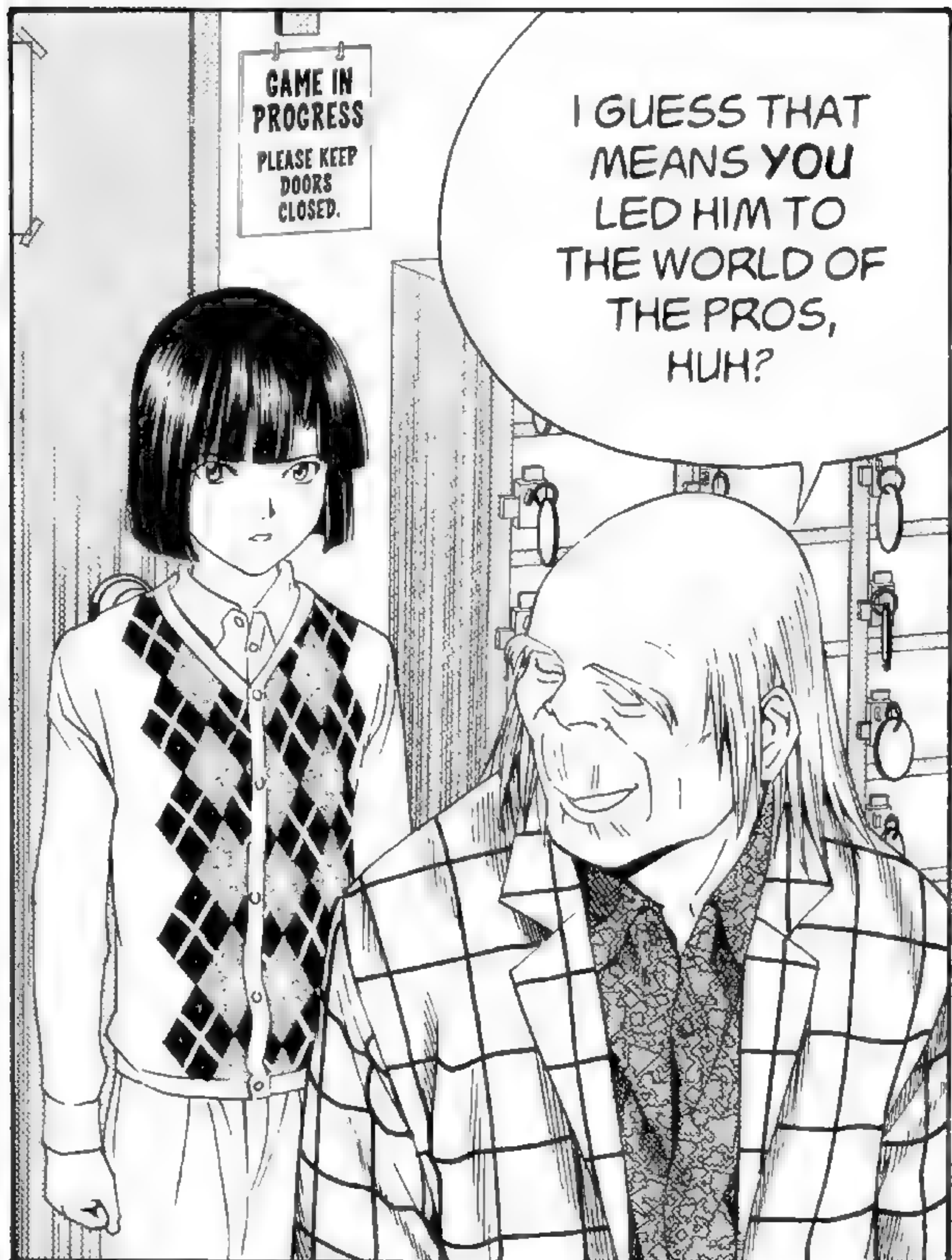
























I WONDER  
IF THAT'S  
POSSIBLE...

OF COURSE,  
I KNOW WHAT  
YOU **REALLY**  
WANT IS TO  
PLAY AN EVEN  
MATCH AGAINST  
HIM, SAI.



"Some-  
day"?!



WELL, MAYBE  
SOMEDAY  
WE'LL BE  
ABLE TO DO  
SOMETHING  
ABOUT IT...

What?!  
You  
wonder...?  
What does  
that mean?



YOU KNOW  
I CAN'T  
GIVE YOU A  
DEFINITE  
DATE!



BUT YOU  
RUINED  
EVERYTHING  
BY BEING SO  
SELFISH!

THIS SHOULD'VE  
BEEN AN  
IMPORTANT  
GAME FOR ME,  
YOU KNOW!





\*The go master's childhood given name, from before he became the 14th generation Hon'inbo master





It was  
my fault!

The truth is,  
Hikaru...



HOLD  
ON...

When I found myself  
back in this world,  
I panicked. I didn't  
know I would ever  
have another chance.  
I pleaded with Torajiro  
to not let this  
opportunity pass  
me by. I was  
selfish...



What--?!



...DIED  
EARLY  
BECAUSE  
OF YOU?

COULD  
IT BE THAT  
TORAJIRO...



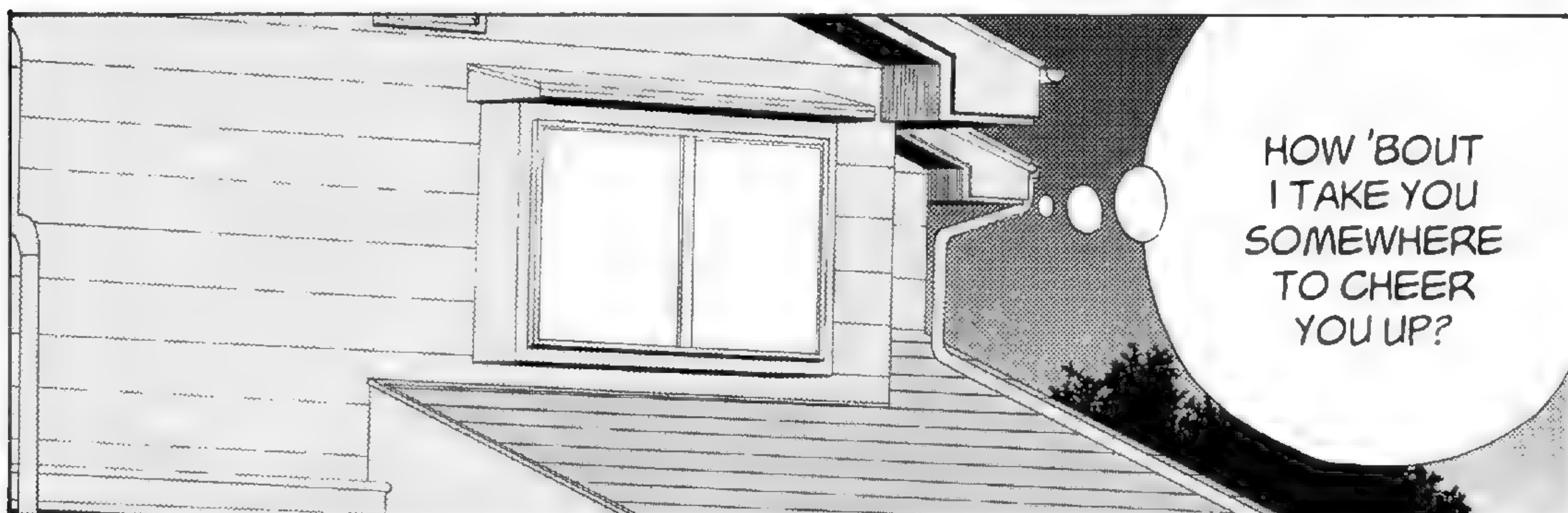
Torajiro was a kind  
and generous soul.  
There was an  
epidemic, and he  
helped the sick  
people around him.  
He was fully aware  
of the danger.

No!  
It's not  
like that  
at all!

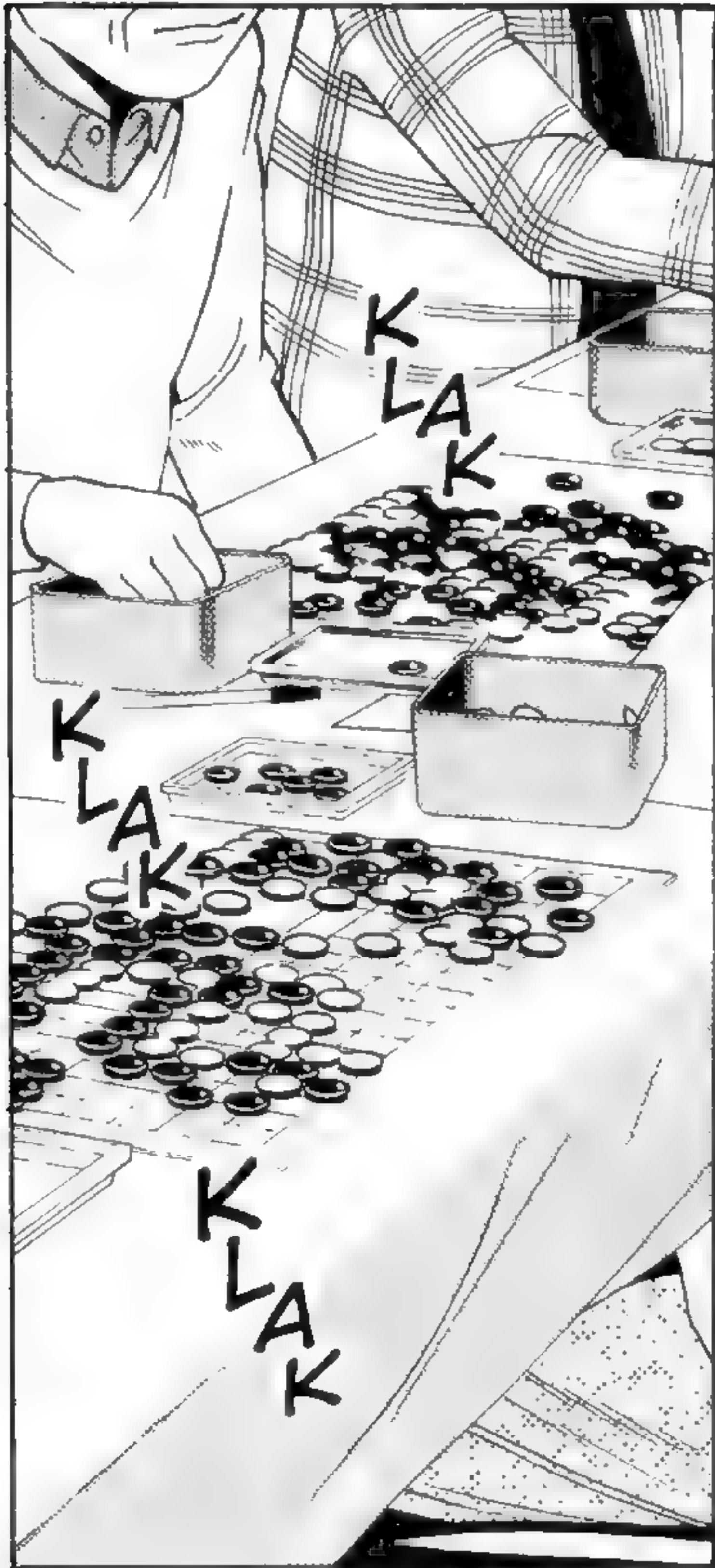
















HEY!  
THOSE PEOPLE  
ARE PLAYING  
GO ON  
COMPUTERS!

THERE'S  
SO MUCH  
STUFF GOING  
ON-LECTURES,  
TEACHING  
GAMES, AND...

So many  
people  
playing  
go!



Hikaru!  
Let's go  
watch a  
game!

SO MANY  
PEOPLE  
SHOWED UP,  
EVEN  
THOUGH IT'S  
WAY OUT  
HERE IN THE  
BOONIES!

I FOUND OUT  
ABOUT THIS  
EVENT IN  
GO WEEKLY.



I GUESS  
I MESSED  
THINGS  
UP...

THERE'S NO  
WAY THAT GAME  
HE PLAYED WITH  
TOYA MEIJIN  
COULD HAVE  
BEEN  
SATISFYING...



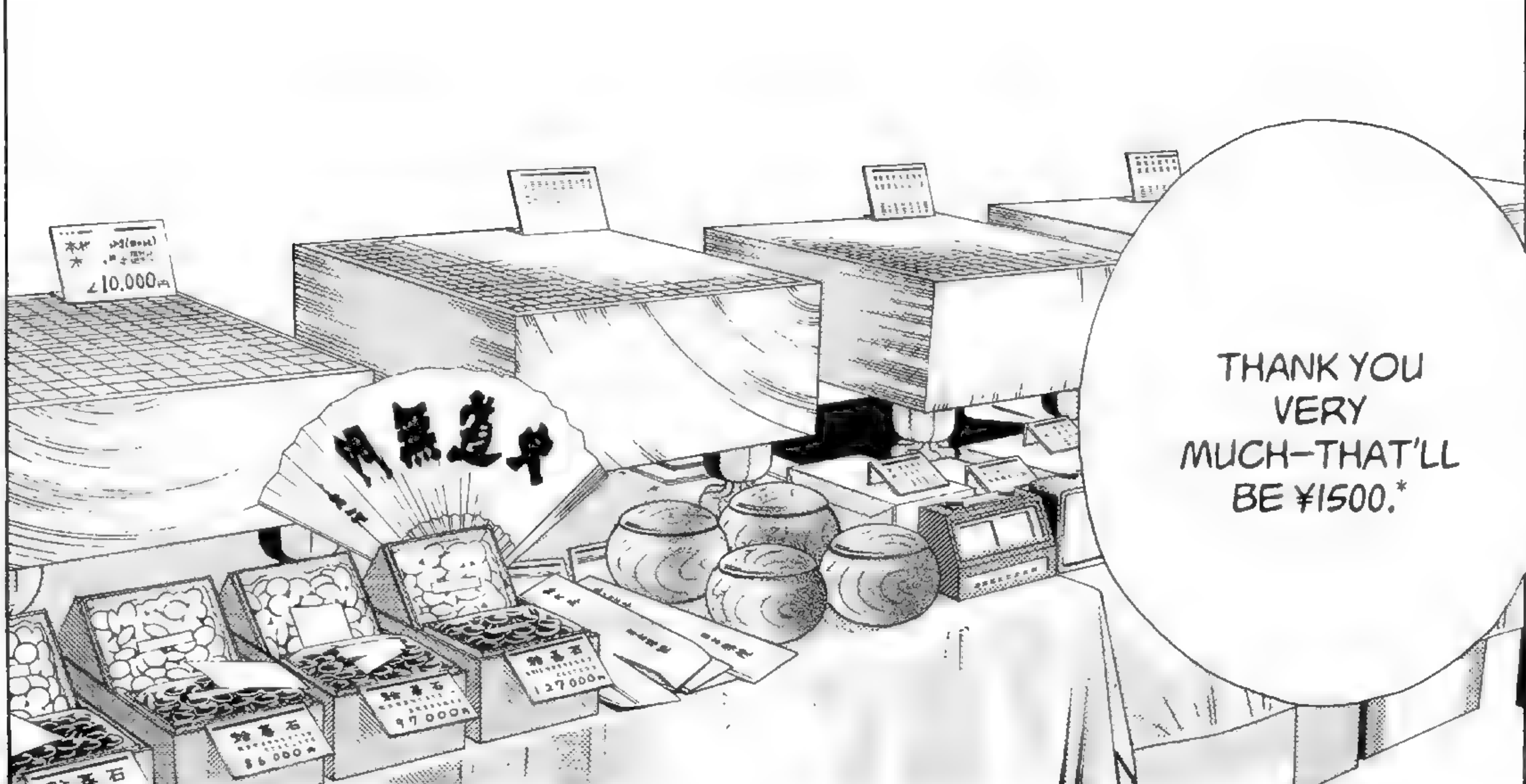
IT TOOK A  
WHILE TO  
GET HERE,  
BUT IT WAS  
WORTH IT.

LOOKS  
LIKE  
THIS IS  
CHEERING  
SAI UP!









\*about \$13



\*about \$1,700



\*about \$690





\*about \$2,600

\*\*about \$1,700







HIKARU

NO

GO

4-PANEL

MANGA

HIKARU  
VS.  
G-CHAN

1







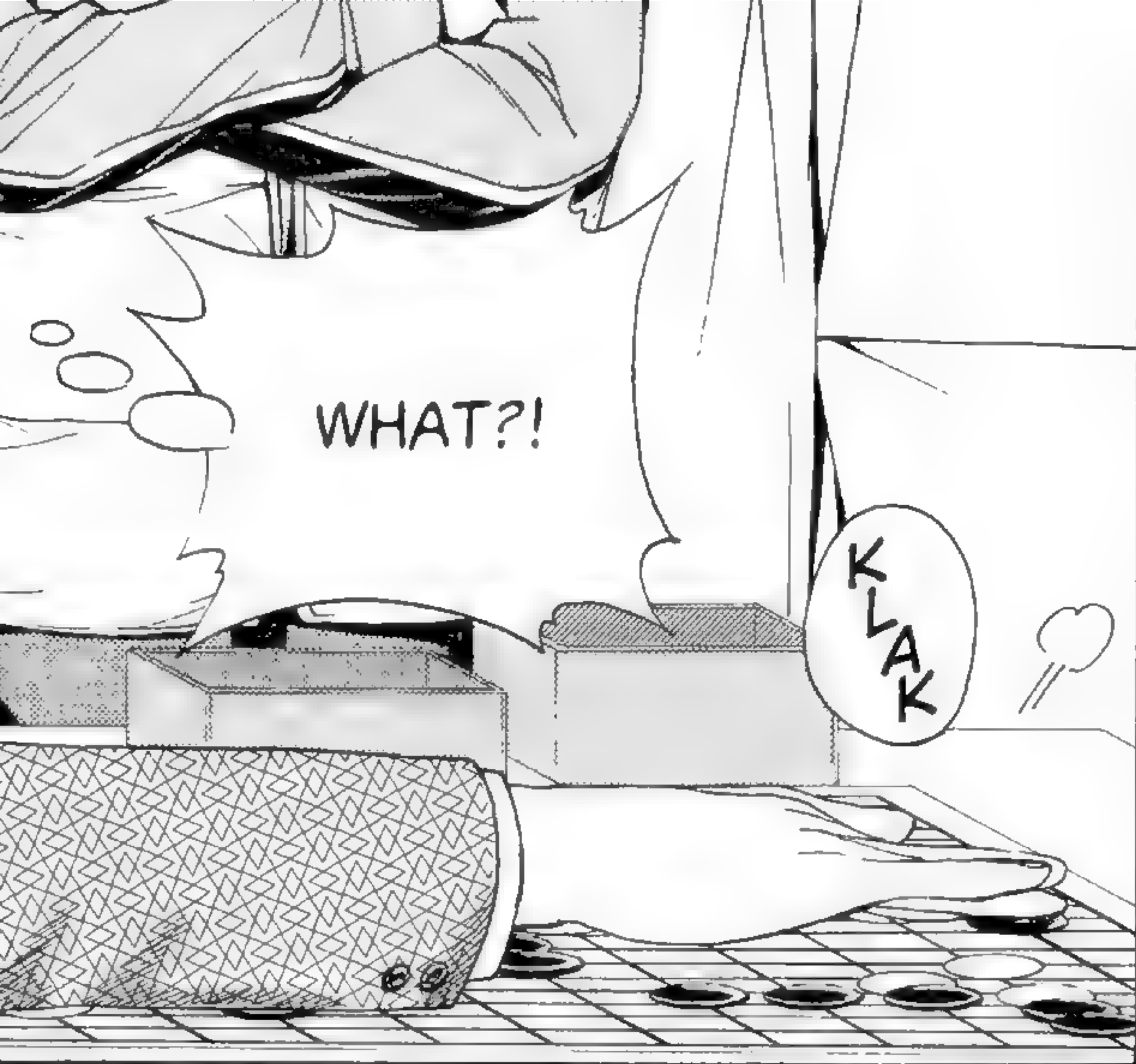
Game 103 "Forgery"



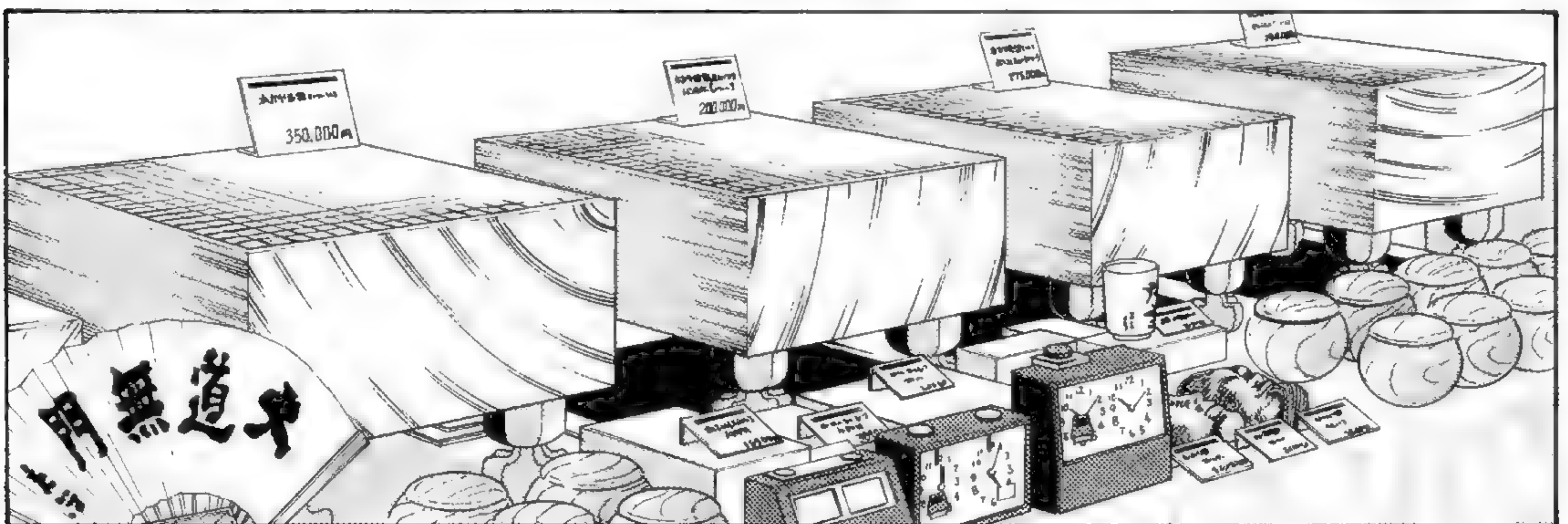




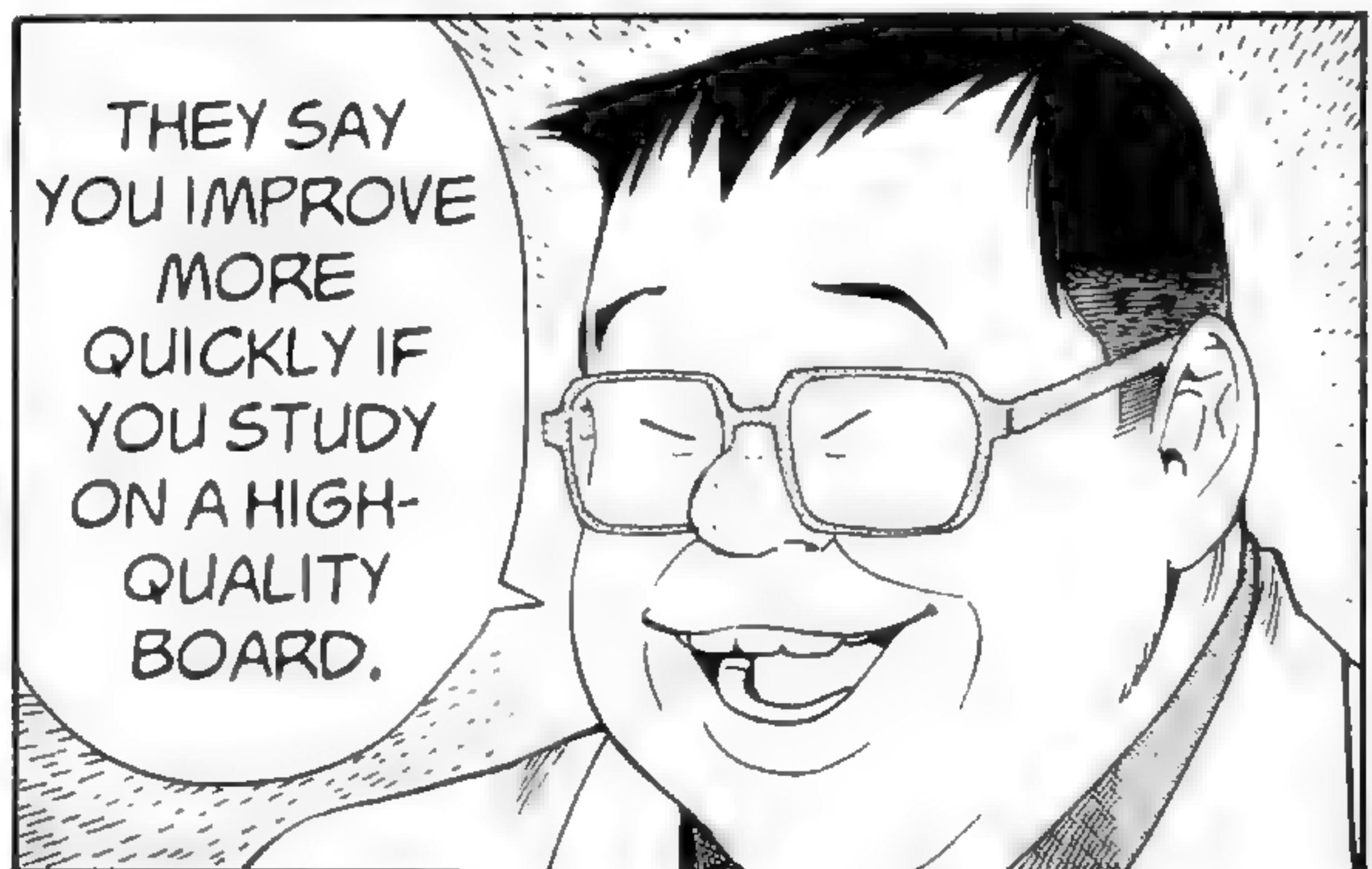
















That's  
not kaya.  
It looks  
similar,  
but it's  
definitely  
not kaya.



Kaya?!  
He calls  
that  
kaya?!

"KAYA"  
?



SAI,  
WHAT'S  
KAYA?



Yours  
is  
katsura  
wood.

WHAT  
ABOUT  
MINE?

All the  
best  
boards  
are made  
of kaya!

Kaya is a type of  
wood used for go  
boards. Torajiro's  
board was made  
out of kaya!  
Your grandfather's  
board is made out  
of kaya, too.



WHAT--?!



IT'S NOT  
REAL  
KAYA?

SO  
THAT'S  
ALIE?





GOKISO  
SENSEI!

QUIT  
INTERFERING  
WITH MY  
BUSINESS!



WHAT'S ALL  
THE FUSS  
ABOUT OVER  
HERE?

STOP  
TALKING  
NONSENSE,  
KID!



K  
K  
K

A  
STONE?



HEY,  
WHAT'RE  
YOU--?!



Hikaru,  
place a  
stone on  
the  
board.

I WASN'T  
INTER-  
FERING...



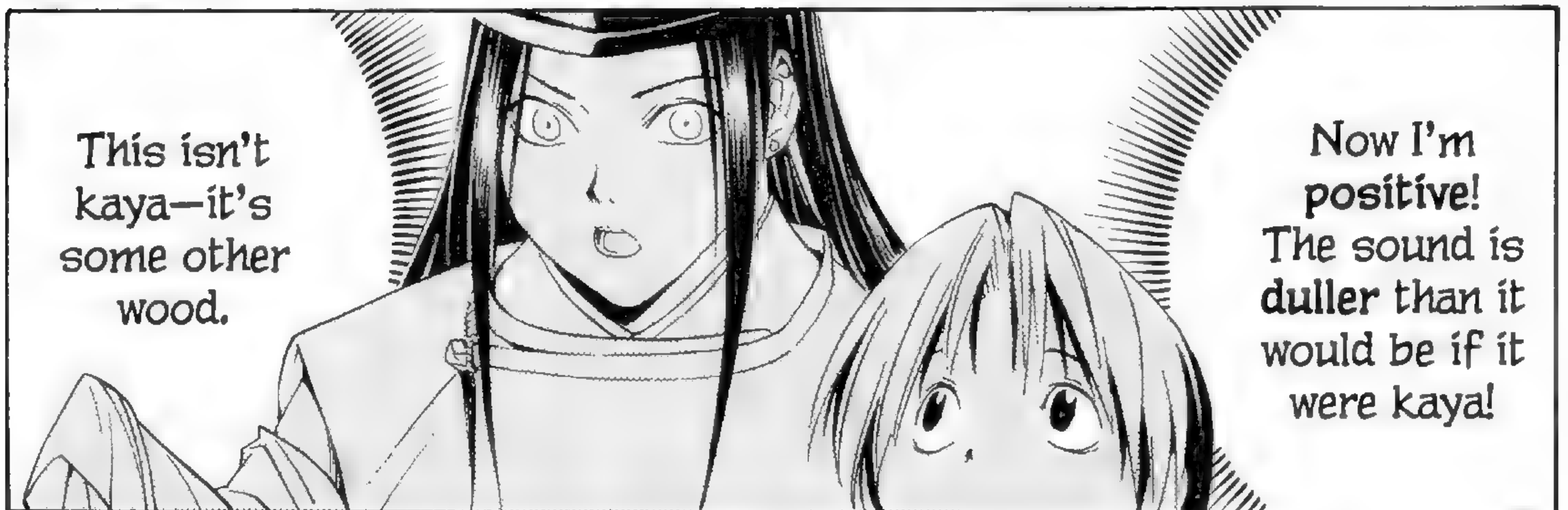




HMPH!



KAK



This isn't  
kaya—it's  
some other  
wood.

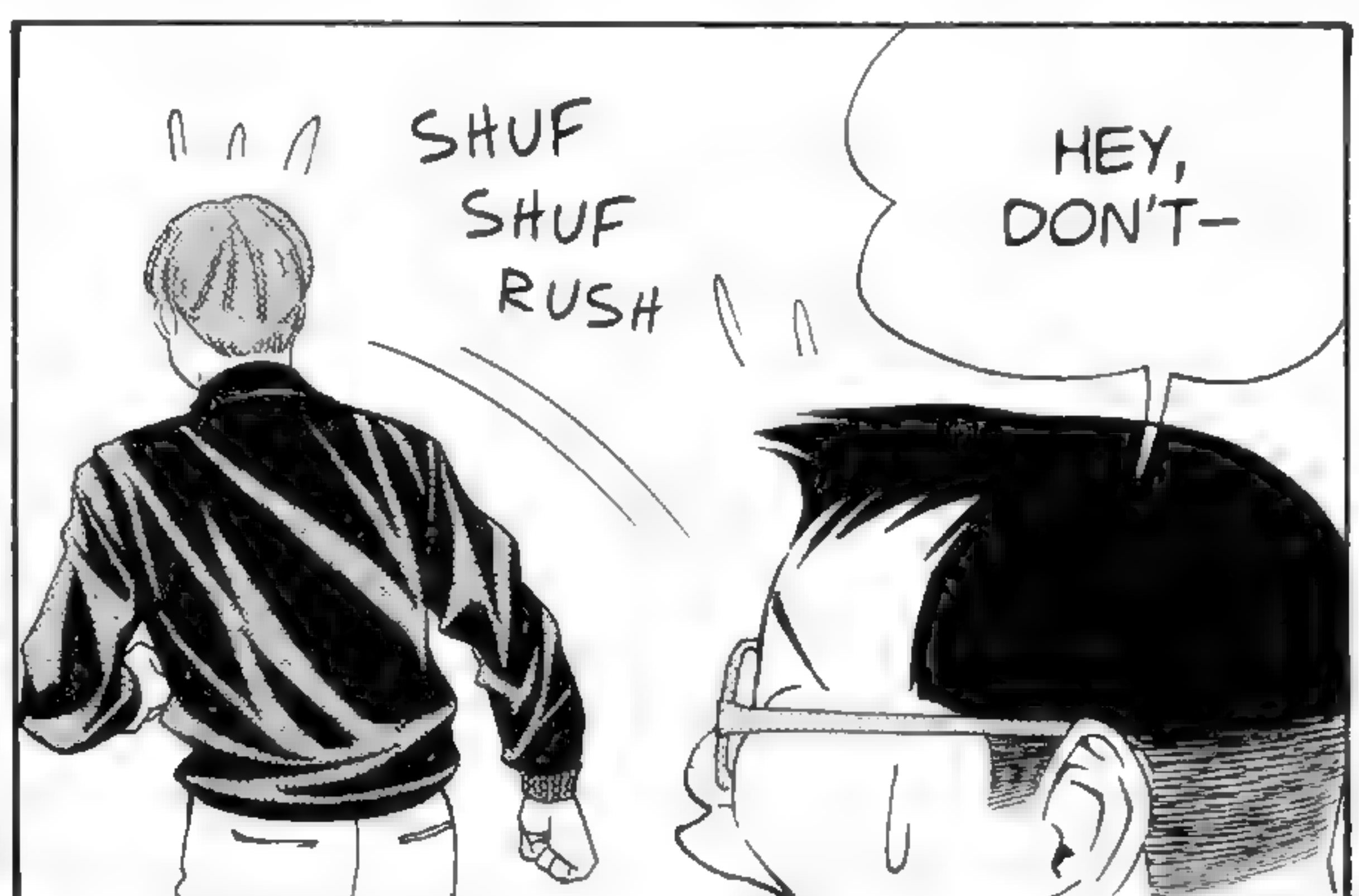
Now I'm  
positive!  
The sound is  
duller than it  
would be if it  
were kaya!



YOU LITTLE  
BRAT! STOP  
HANDLING THE  
MERCHANDISE!

ACK!









I'M  
SORRY...

SO DON'T  
DO THAT  
AGAIN!

GO BOARDS  
ARE MADE OF  
WOOD, AND WOOD  
CAN GET MARKED  
UP WHEN YOU PUT  
A STONE  
ON THE BOARD.

THE  
SUCKERS  
AREN'T  
BITING  
TODAY.



HUH?!



HON'INBO  
SHUSAKU'S  
PERSONAL  
BOARD?  
WOW!

Yes,  
but...

SAI,  
YOU  
TOLD  
ME TO  
DO IT!



Where?  
Where?  
Let me  
see!



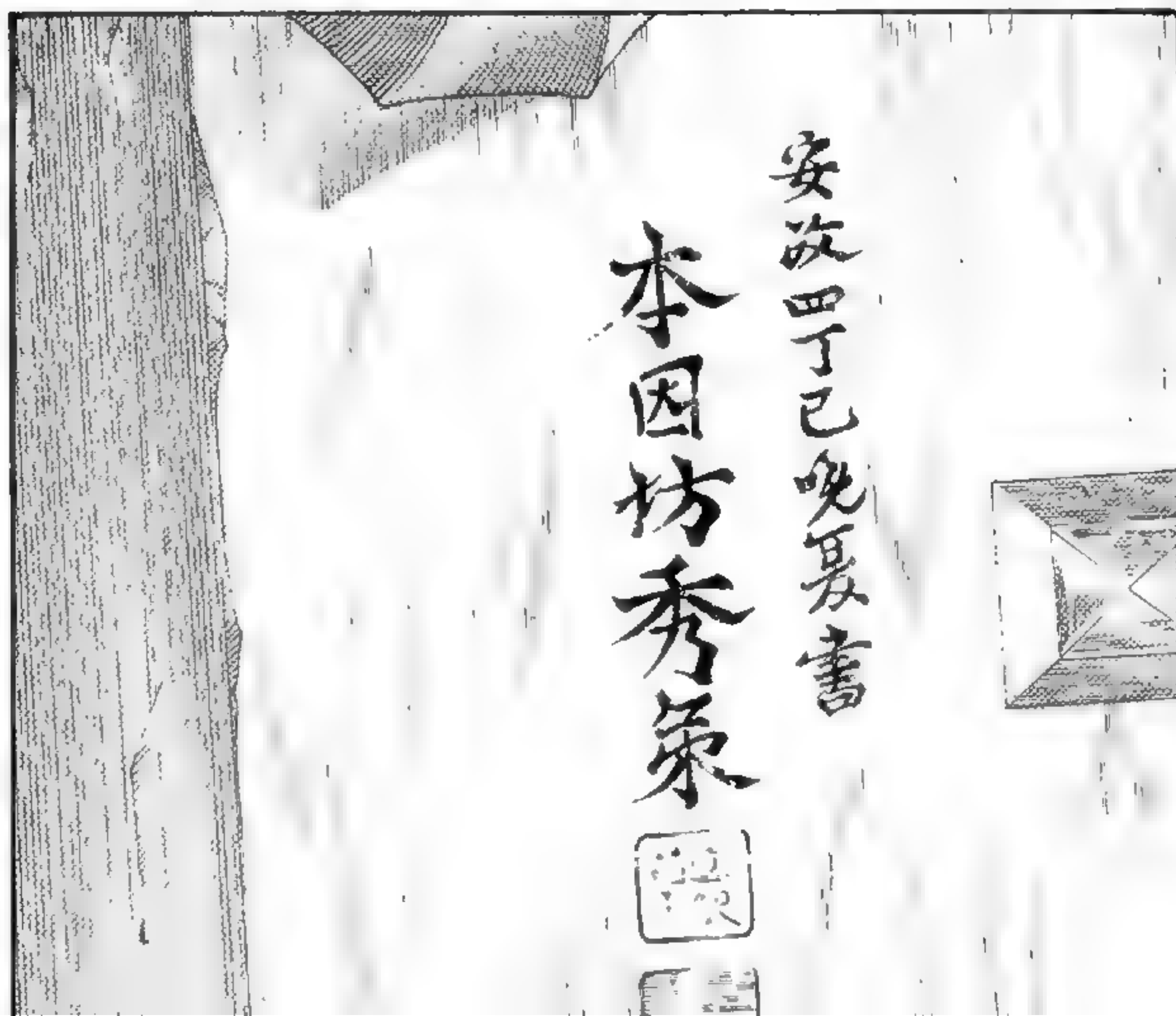
I ACQUIRED  
THAT JUST  
RECENTLY  
FROM AN  
ANTIQUE  
SHOP.



THIS IS  
FOR SALE?!  
FOR  
¥6,000,000?!\*

\*about  
\$51,900







AND IF YOU BUY  
TODAY, I'LL  
MAKE YOU AN  
INCREDIBLE  
OFFER—ZERO  
PERCENT  
INTEREST.

YOU COULD  
PAY IN  
INSTALLMENTS  
OF 50 OR 100.

BUT SIX  
MIL—THAT'S  
QUITE  
EXPENSIVE.

Hikaru!  
That's not  
Torajiro's  
hand-  
writing!

SO  
THAT  
MEANS...

SIGNED BY  
HON'INBO  
SHUSAKU



YOU AGAIN!  
THIS IS  
100 PERCENT  
GENUINE!  
IT'S THE  
REAL THING!







AH!  
WAIT,  
SIR!

WHY DON'T  
YOU JUST  
GO AWAY.



THAT'S  
NOT  
SHUSAKU'S  
WRITING!

How can he  
claim it's  
100 percent  
genuine?!



OH,  
I GET IT!  
THAT'S  
YOUR  
WRITING,  
ISN'T IT?

A PRO?  
BUT WHY  
WOULD HE  
LIE LIKE  
THAT?



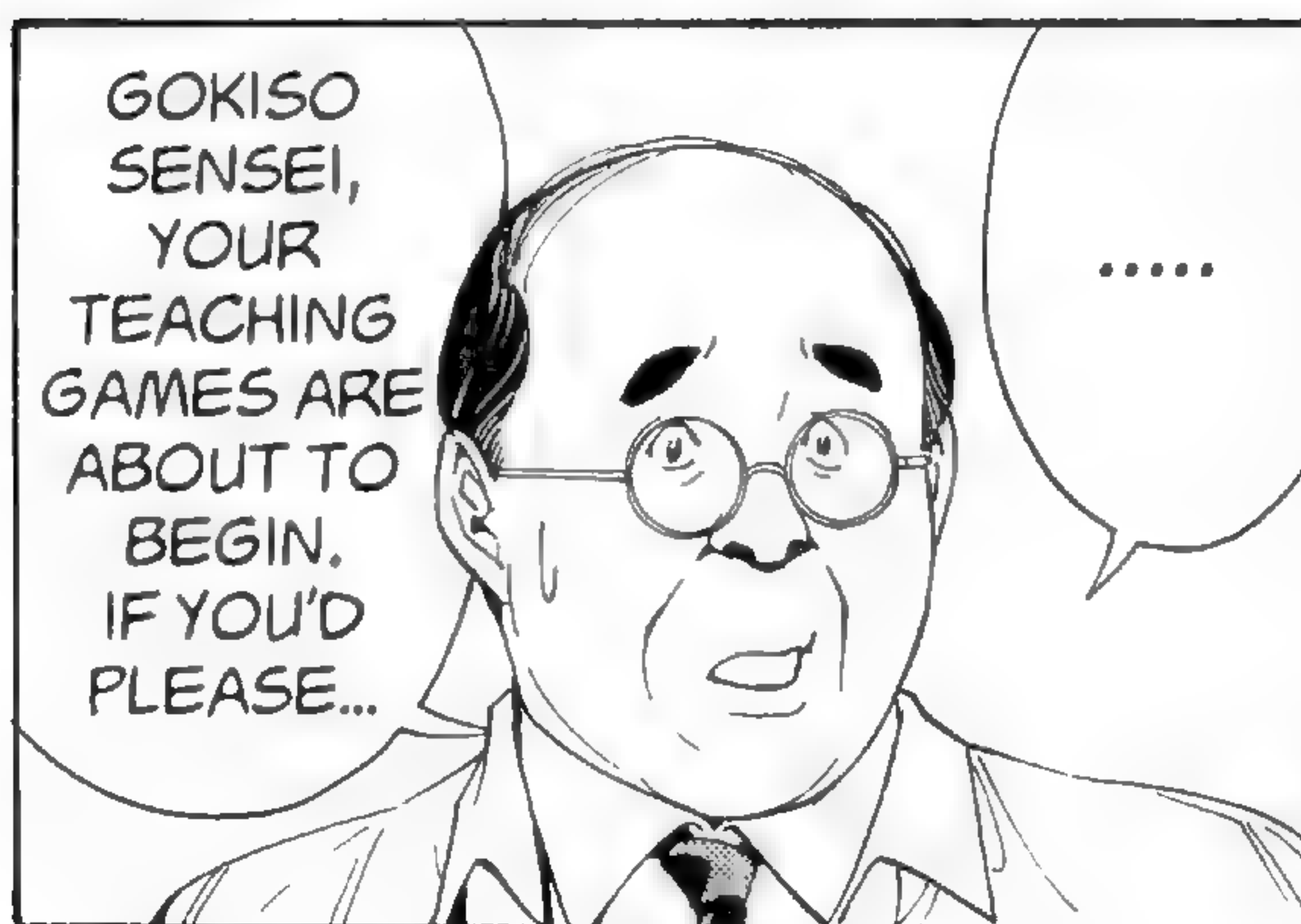
WHAT?!



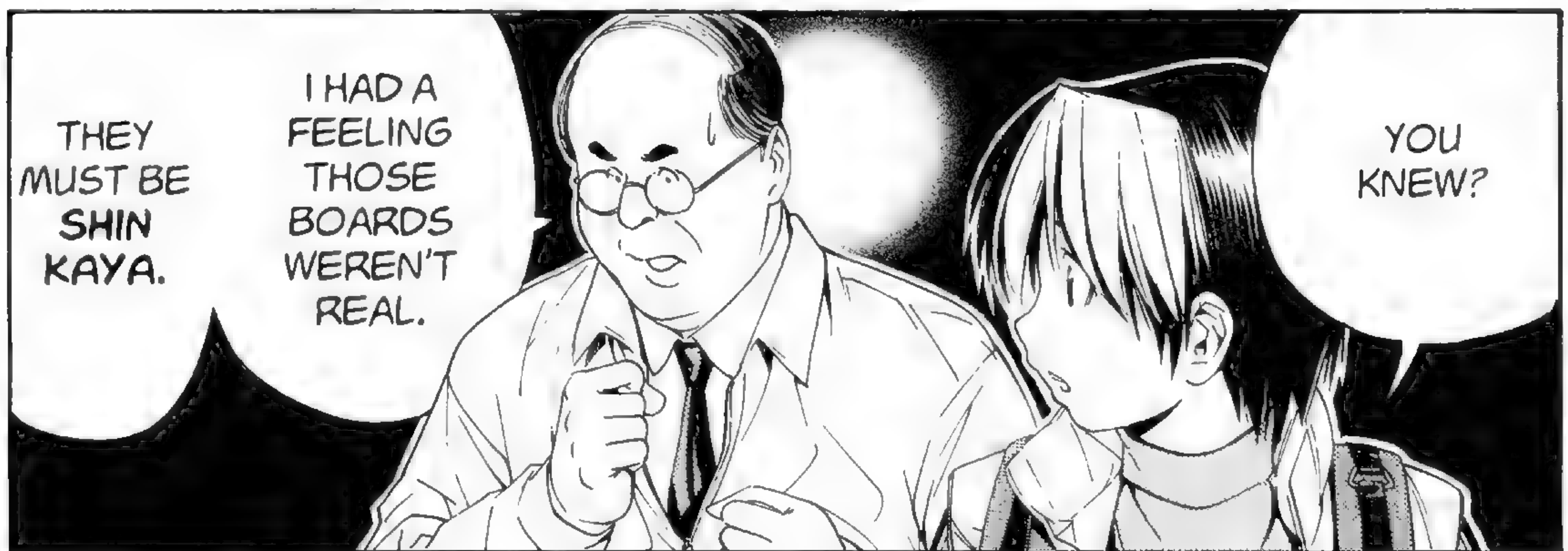
THERE'S NO  
MISTAKE.  
THIS IS THE  
REAL THING.

SEE?!  
AND THAT'S  
COMING FROM  
A PRO  
PLAYER.

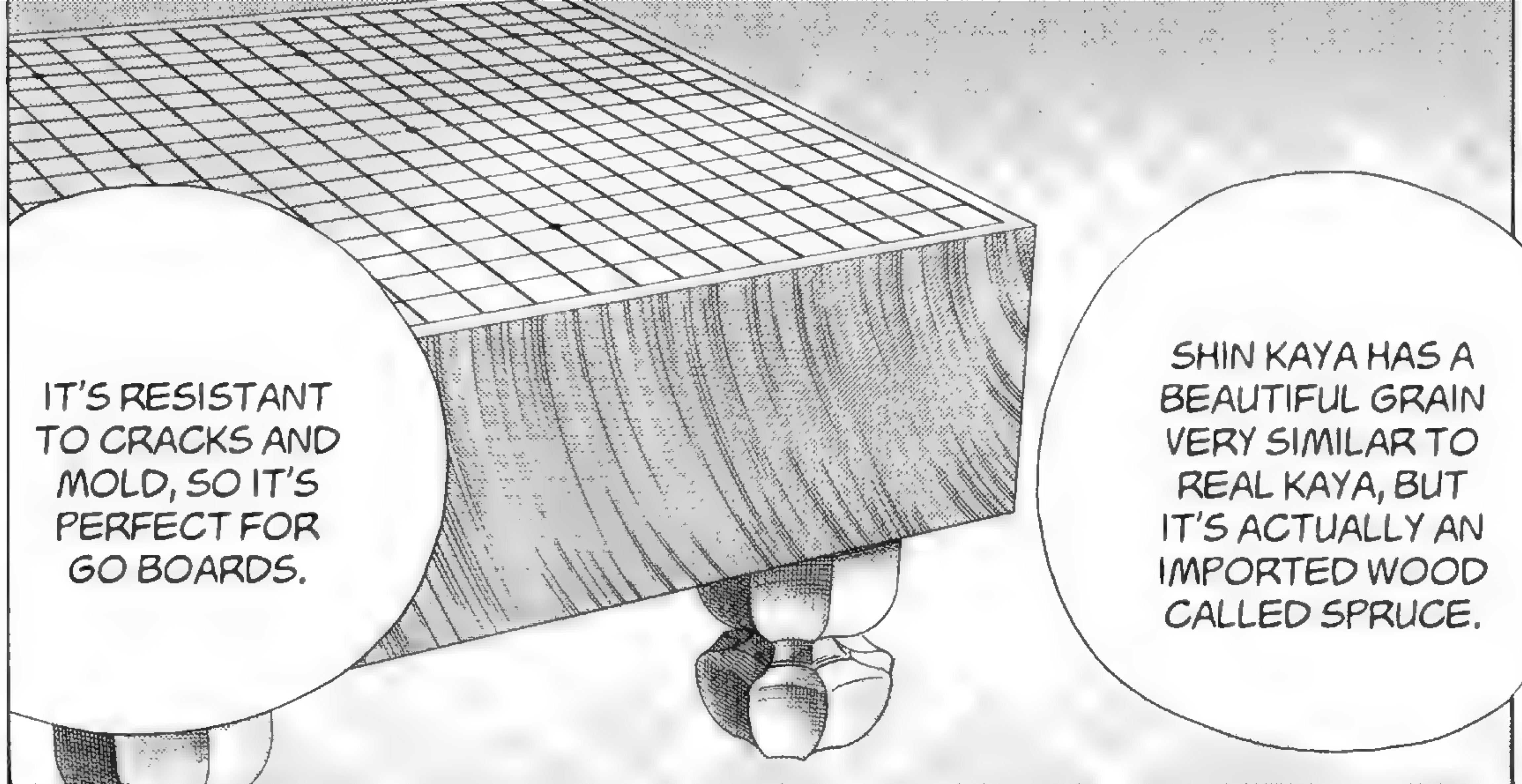












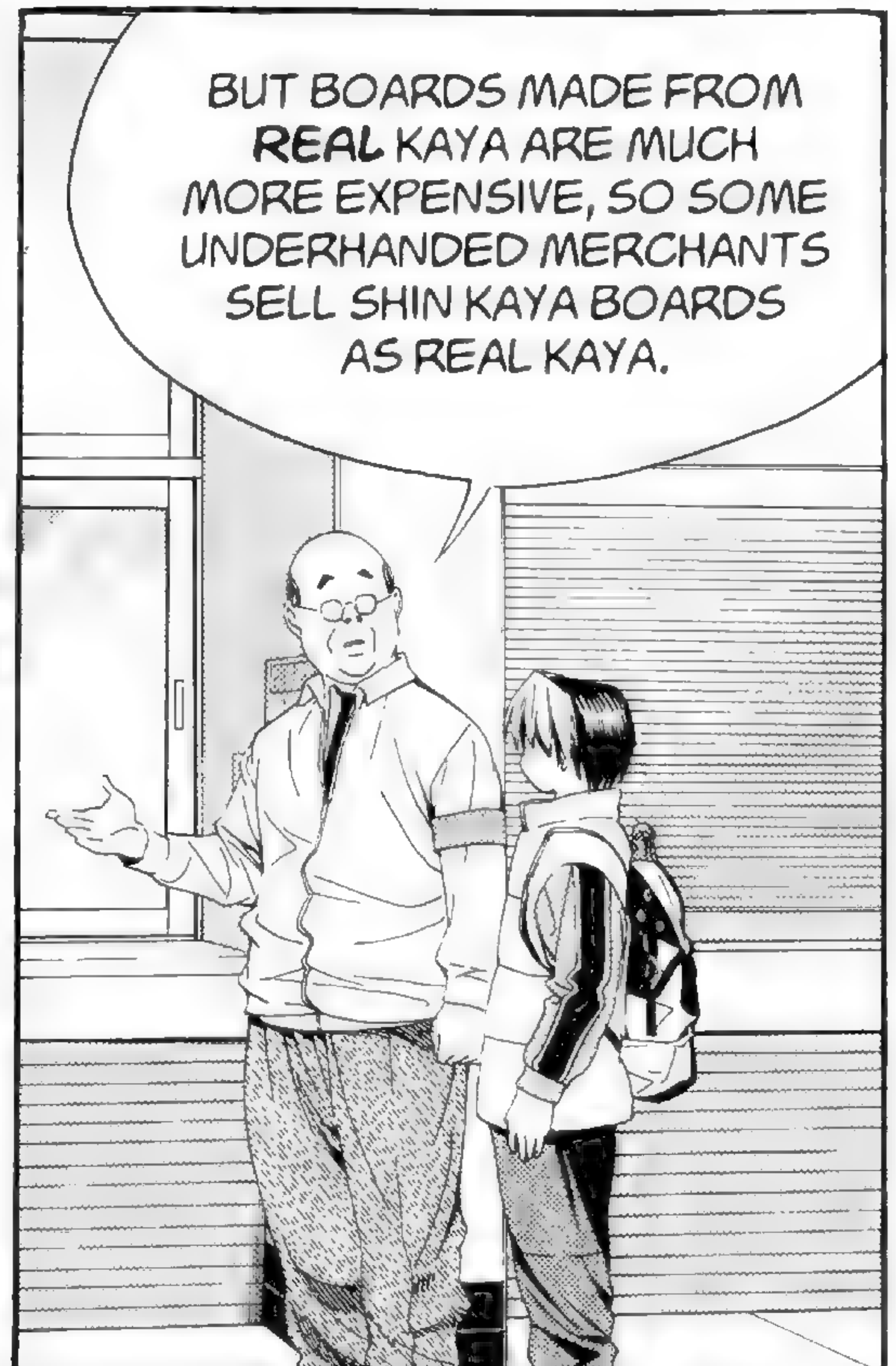
IT'S RESISTANT  
TO CRACKS AND  
MOLD, SO IT'S  
PERFECT FOR  
GO BOARDS.

SHIN KAYA HAS A  
BEAUTIFUL GRAIN  
VERY SIMILAR TO  
REAL KAYA, BUT  
IT'S ACTUALLY AN  
IMPORTED WOOD  
CALLED SPRUCE.



HE  
SOUNDS  
A LOT  
BETTER  
THAN THIS  
ONE!

WHY  
DIDN'T  
YOUR  
USUAL GUY  
COME  
BACK?



BUT BOARDS MADE FROM  
**REAL KAYA** ARE MUCH  
MORE EXPENSIVE, SO SOME  
UNDERHANDED MERCHANTS  
SELL SHIN KAYA BOARDS  
AS REAL KAYA.



WE  
COULDN'T  
REFUSE.

GOKISO  
SENSEI  
INSISTED...



WELL, I'LL GO  
DEAL WITH THAT  
VENDOR NOW.  
THANKS FOR  
YOUR HELP, AND  
ENJOY THE  
REST OF YOUR  
TIME HERE!

I'VE HEARD  
SOME BAD  
RUMORS  
ABOUT HIM...  
YES...







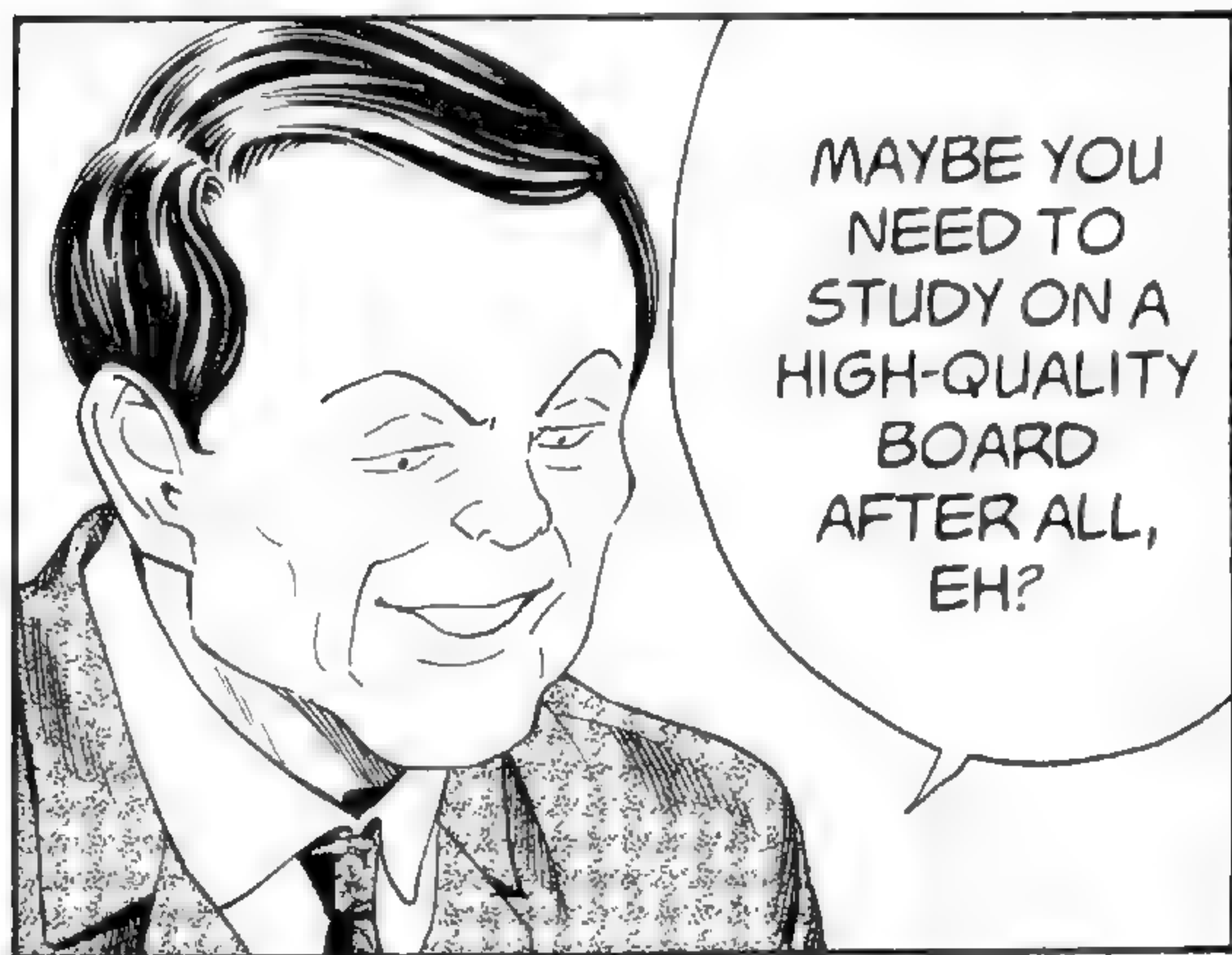




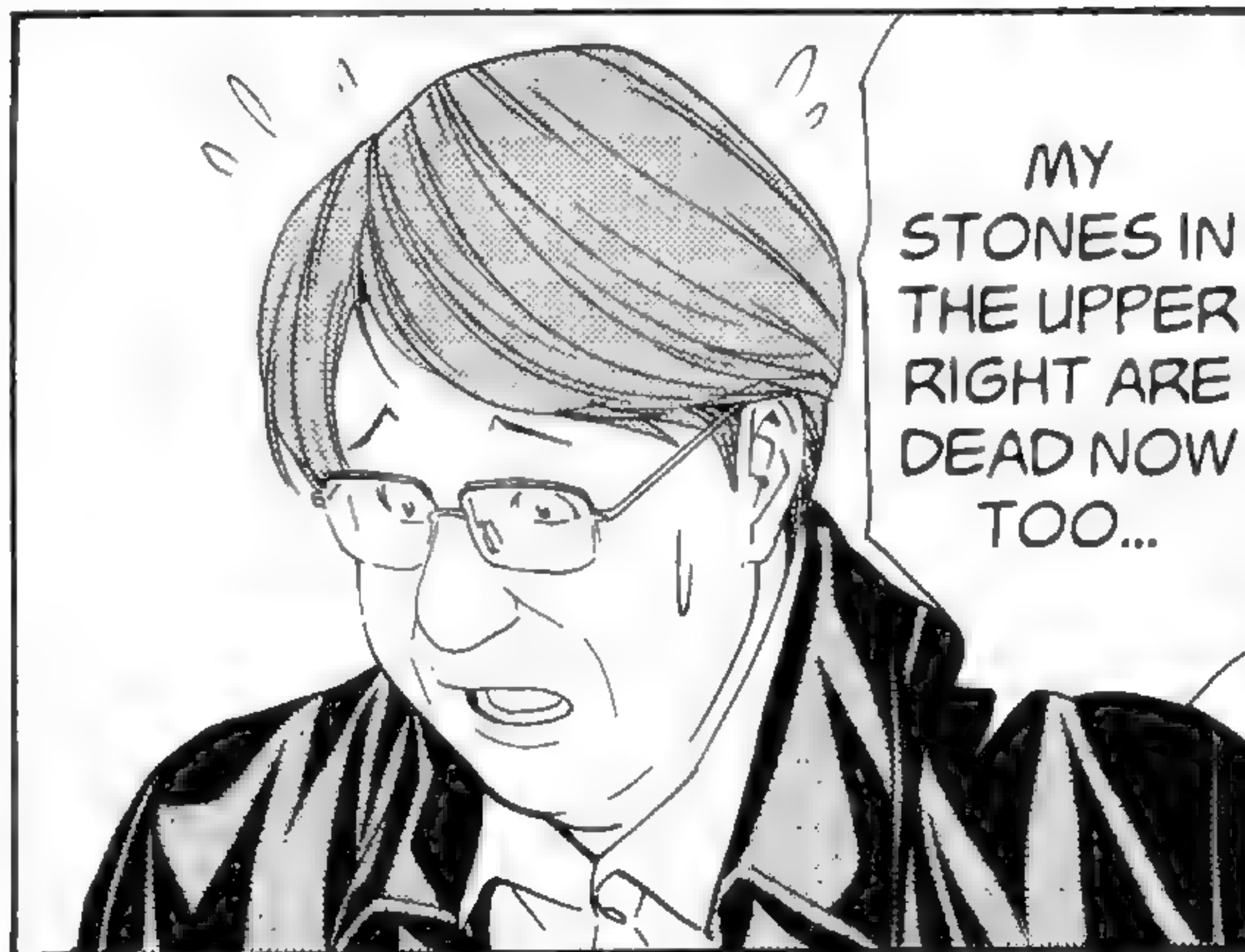
# TEACHING GAMES



LOOK-YOU'VE  
GOT WEAK  
POINTS  
EVERYWHERE.



MAYBE YOU  
NEED TO  
STUDY ON A  
HIGH-QUALITY  
BOARD  
AFTER ALL,  
EH?



MY  
STONES IN  
THE UPPER  
RIGHT ARE  
DEAD NOW  
TOO...

That  
cruel  
man is  
tormenting  
a weak  
player.

I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
THIS GAME!















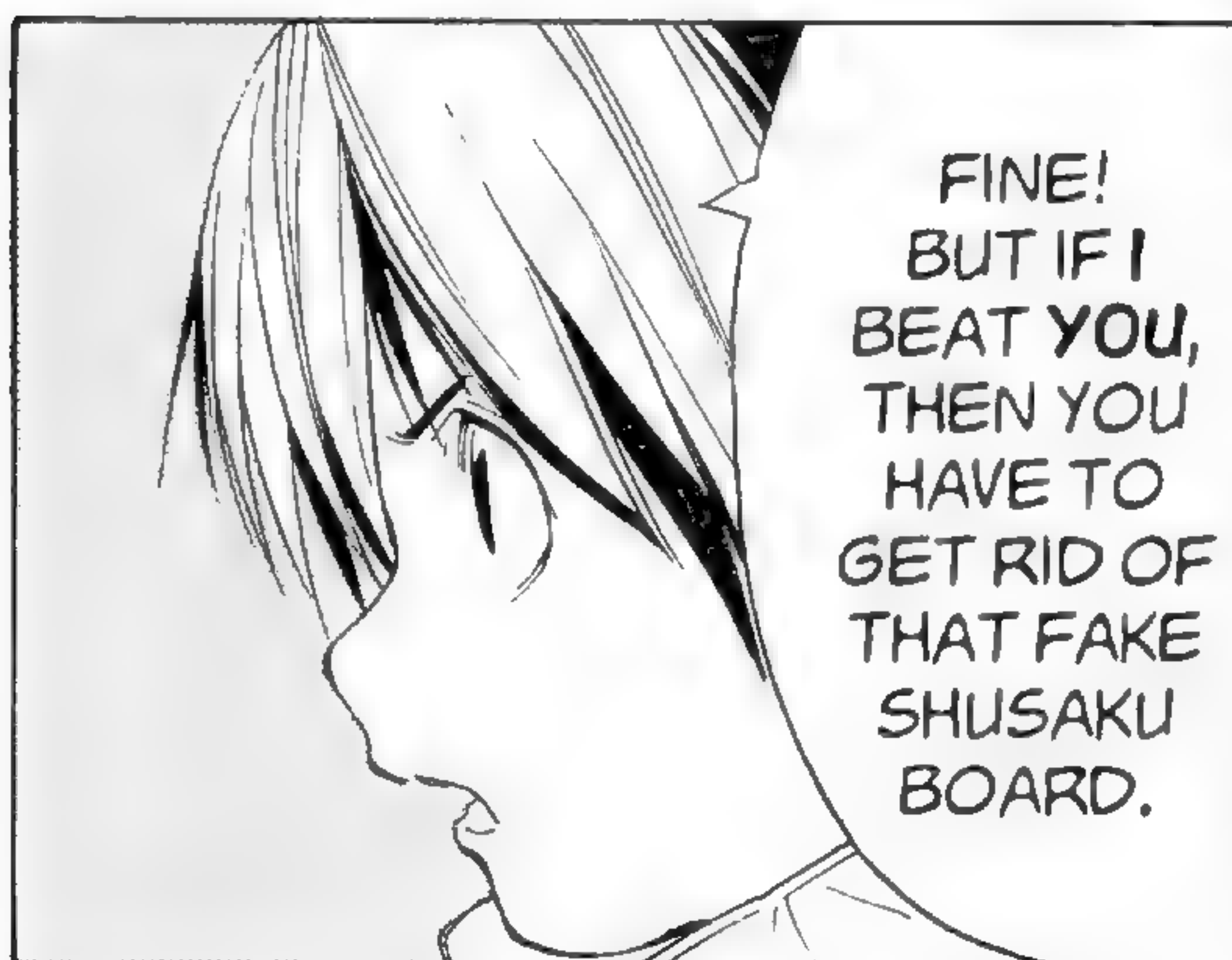
TH-  
THANKS  
FOR  
THE  
GAME.

OKAY.



Tell him  
that if I win,  
he has to  
remove that  
fake Tora-  
jiro board!

HEY!



FINE!  
BUT IF I  
BEAT YOU,  
THEN YOU  
HAVE TO  
GET RID OF  
THAT FAKE  
SHUSAKU  
BOARD.



WELL?

SKOOT

SWP



BUT, SAI...  
WHAT IF HE  
DRAWS A LOT  
OF ATTENTION  
TO US AFTER  
YOU BEAT  
HIM?

I'LL TAKE  
THAT AS A  
PROMISE.



HMPH!  
AS IF  
THAT  
WOULD  
EVER  
HAPPEN.



He'll be too  
embarrassed  
to talk about  
a loss  
against you.

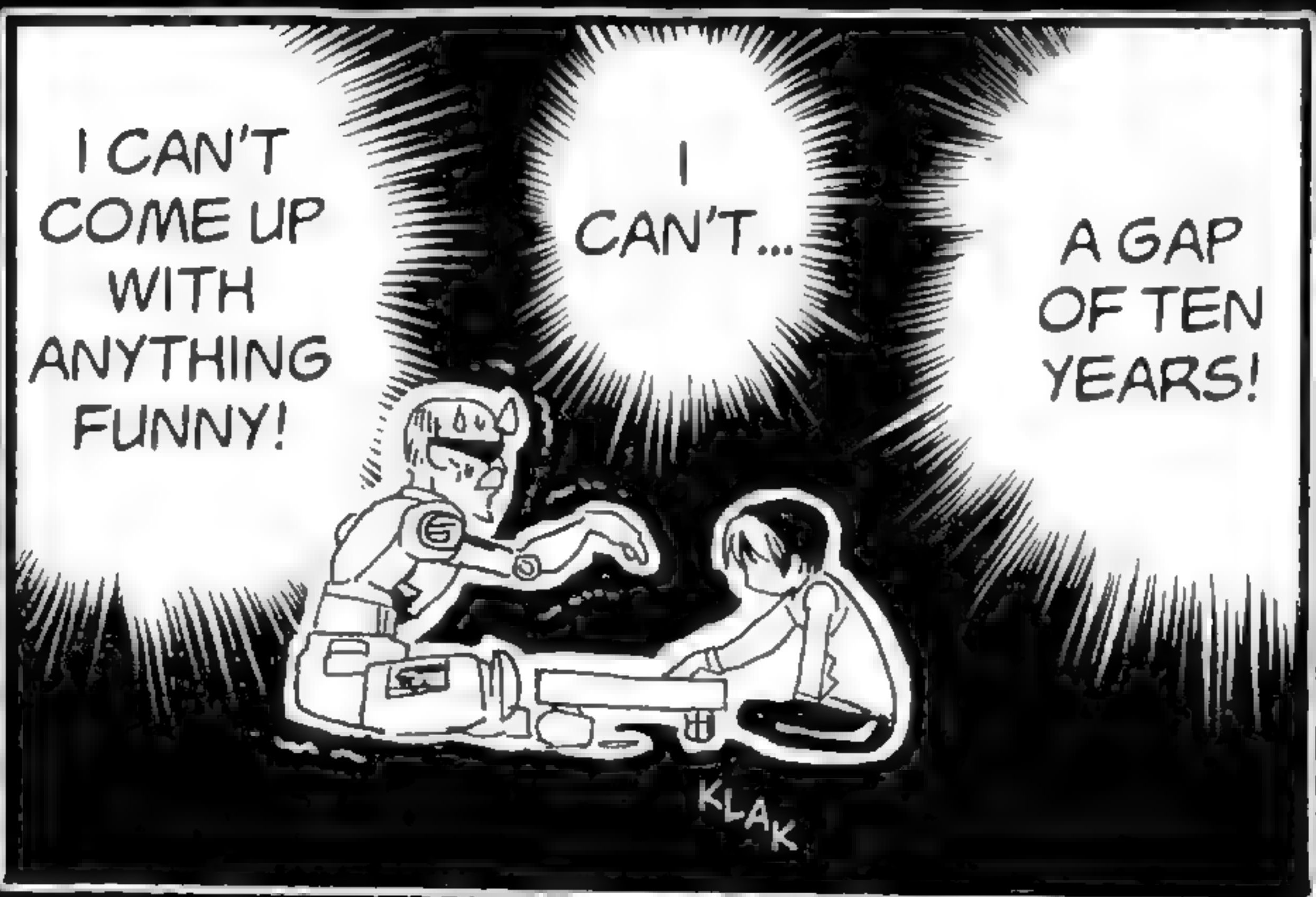
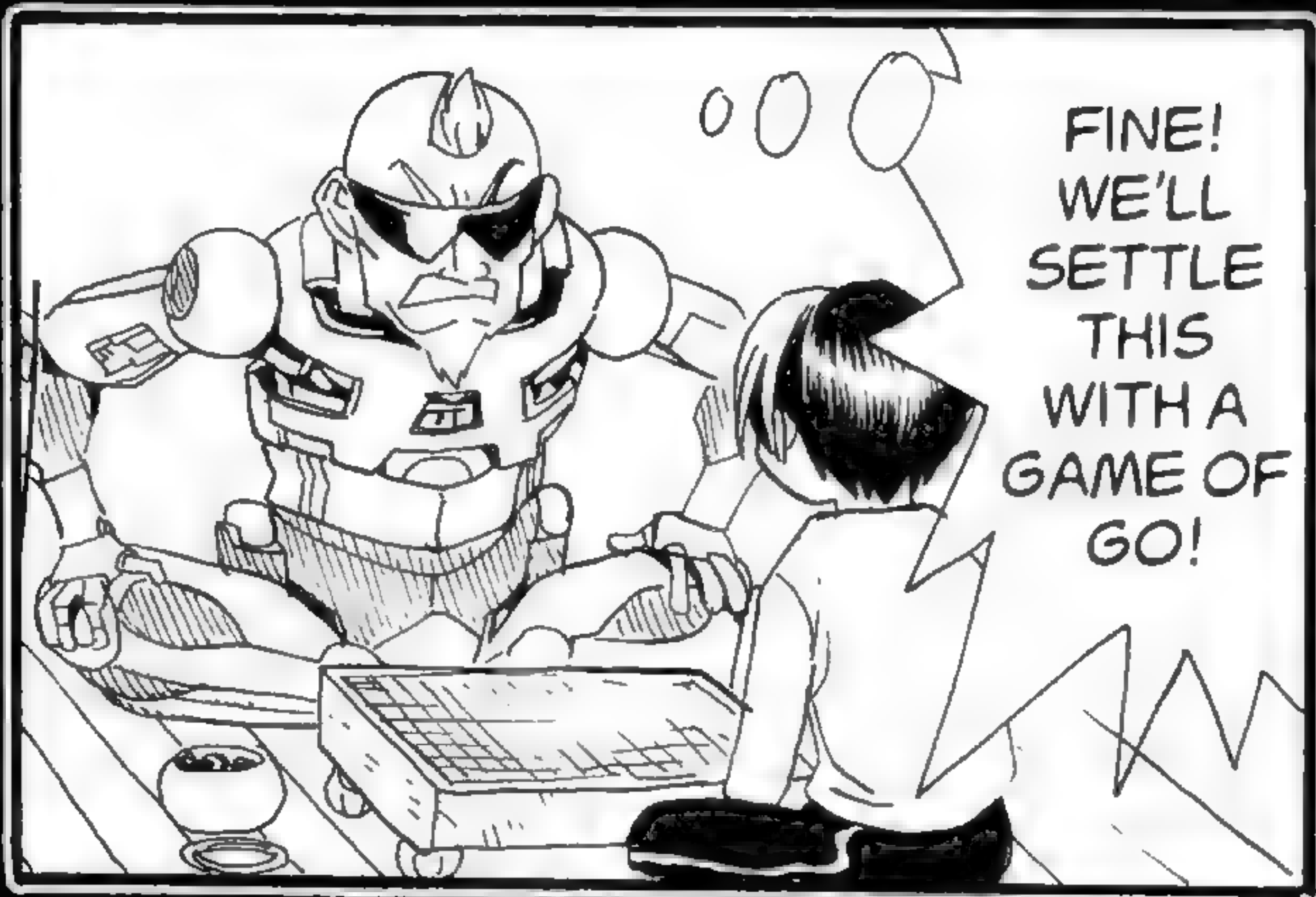
He thinks  
you're an  
amateur, a  
mere child.

GO  
FOR IT,  
SAI!

THAT MEANS  
YOU DON'T  
HAVE TO PULL  
ANY  
PUNCHES...

One-point  
corner  
enclosure!





HIKARU

NO

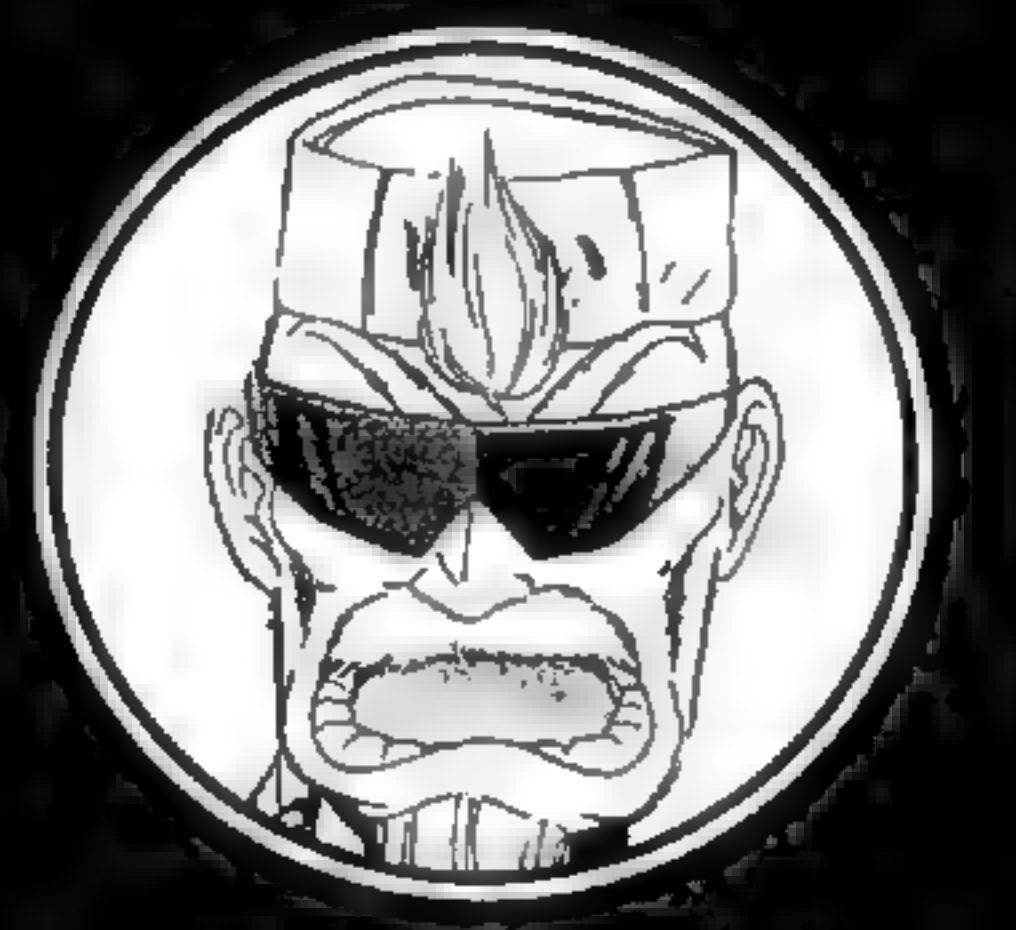
GO

4-PANEL

MANGA

HIKARU  
VS.  
G-CHAN

2





# Game 104 "Kurata 6-dan"



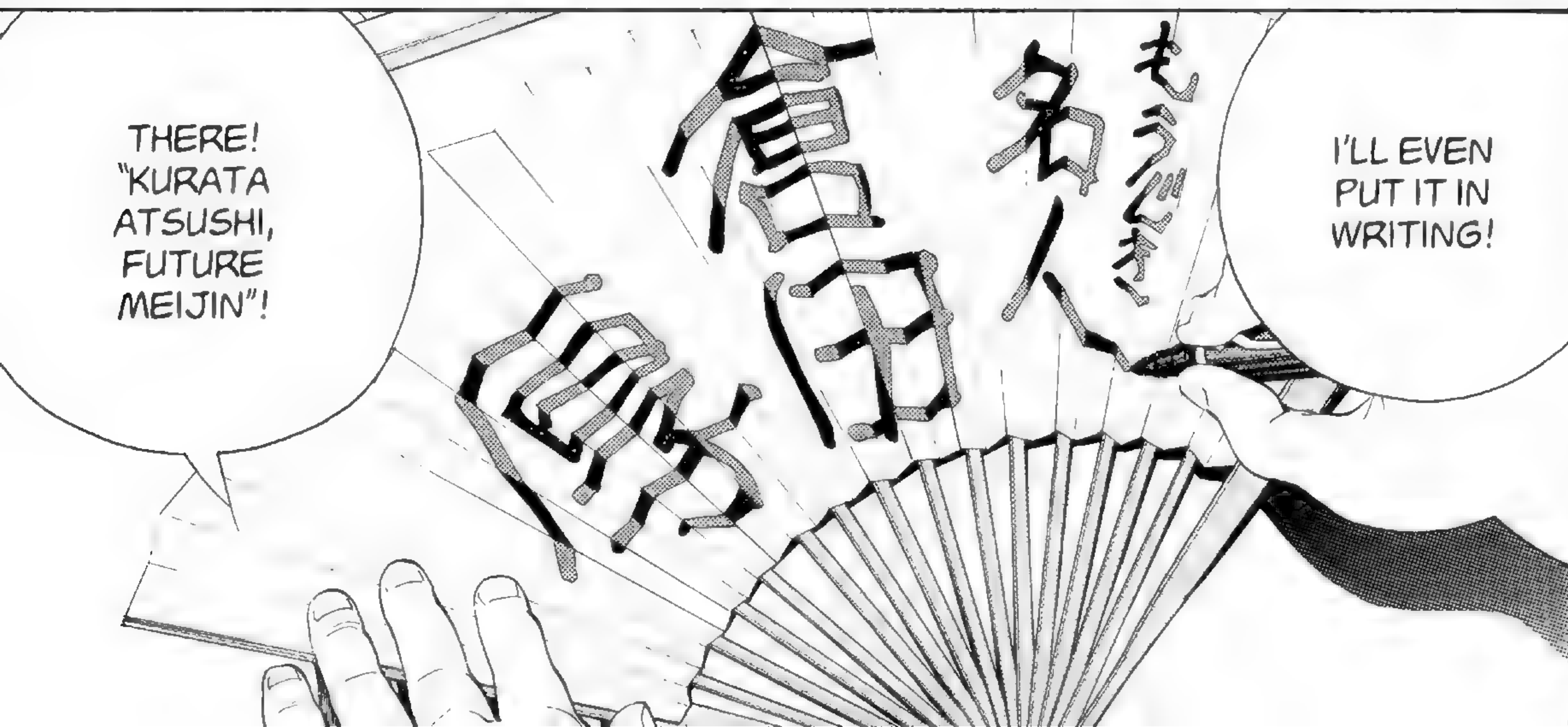
SHINDO  
HIKARU



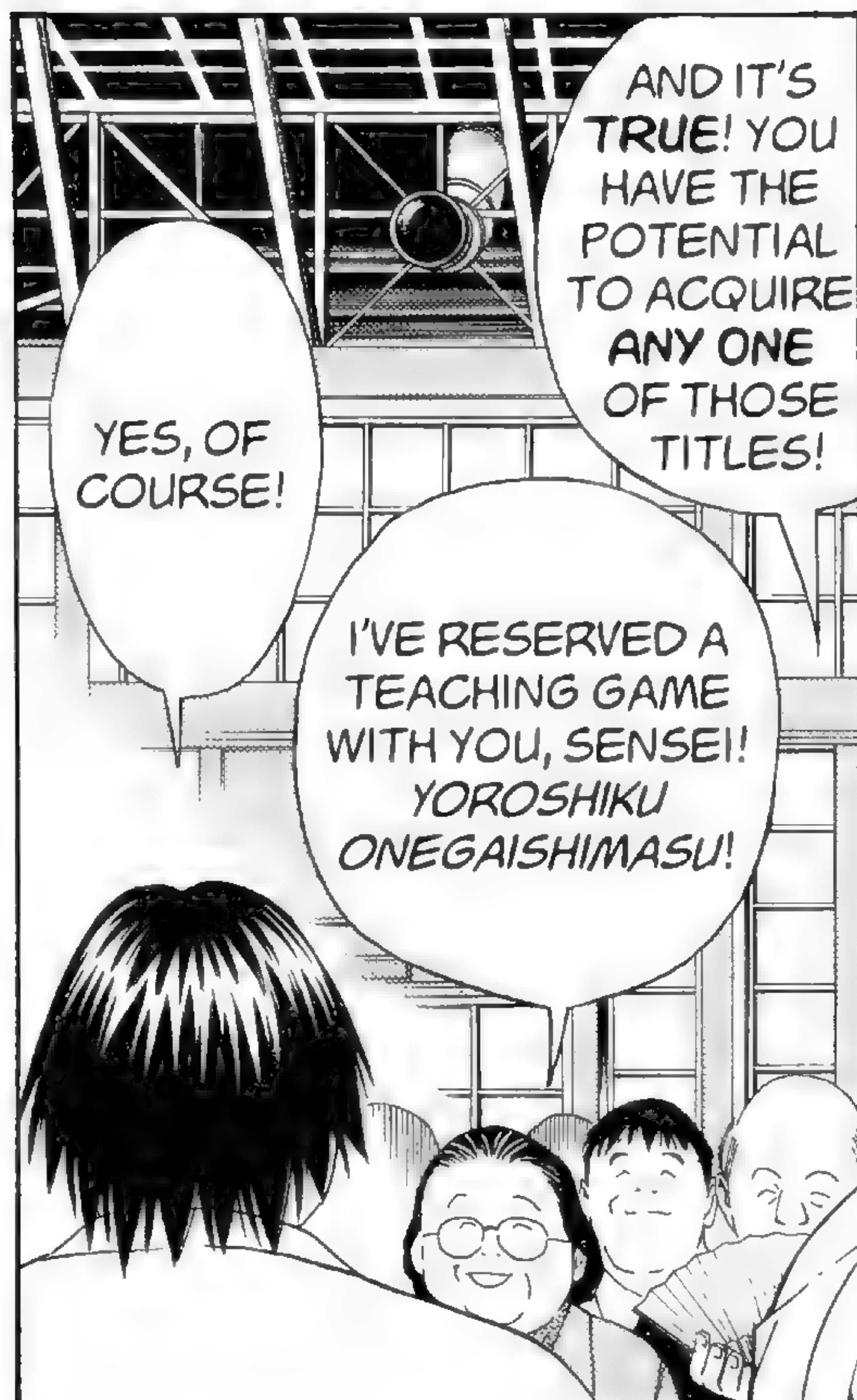








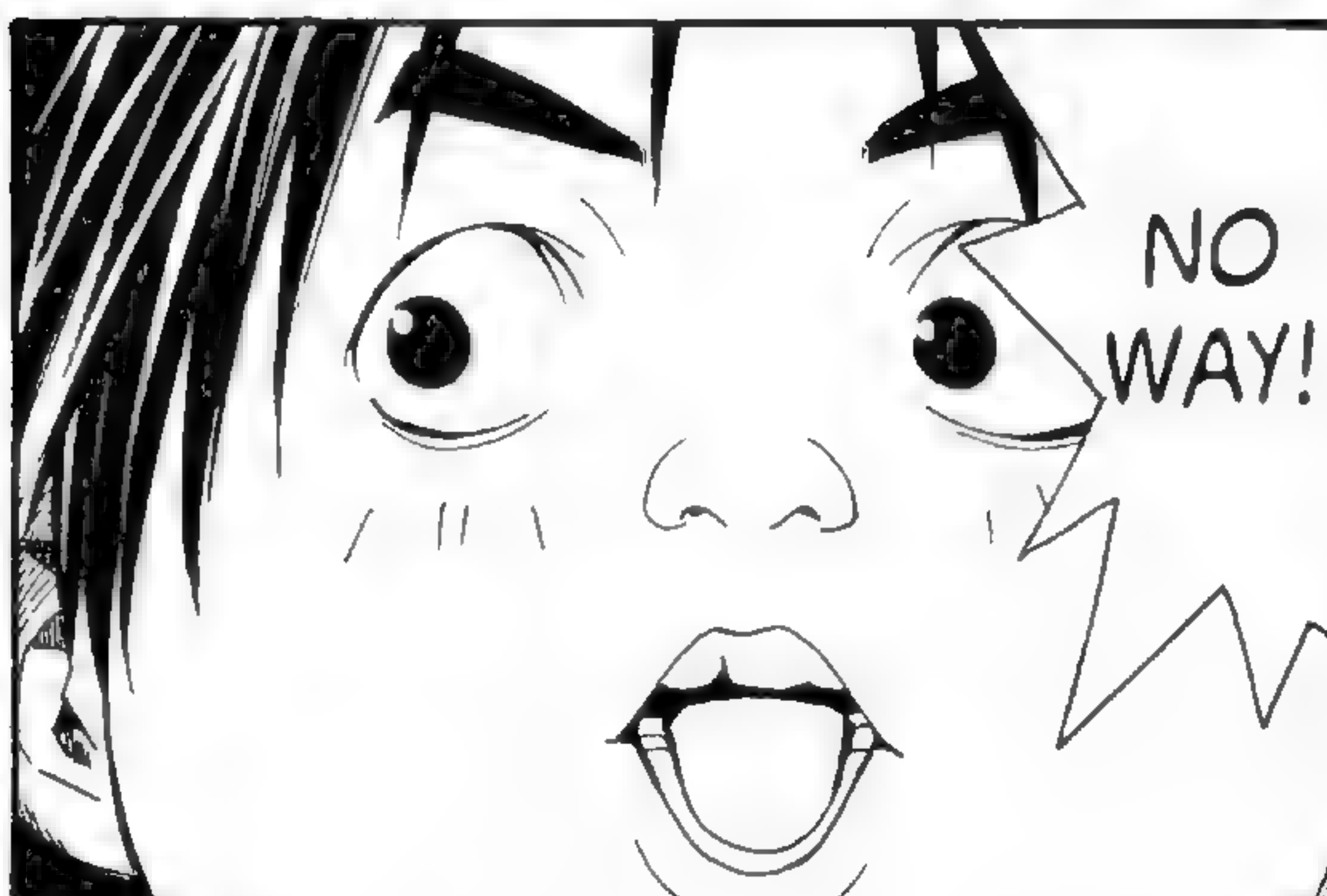




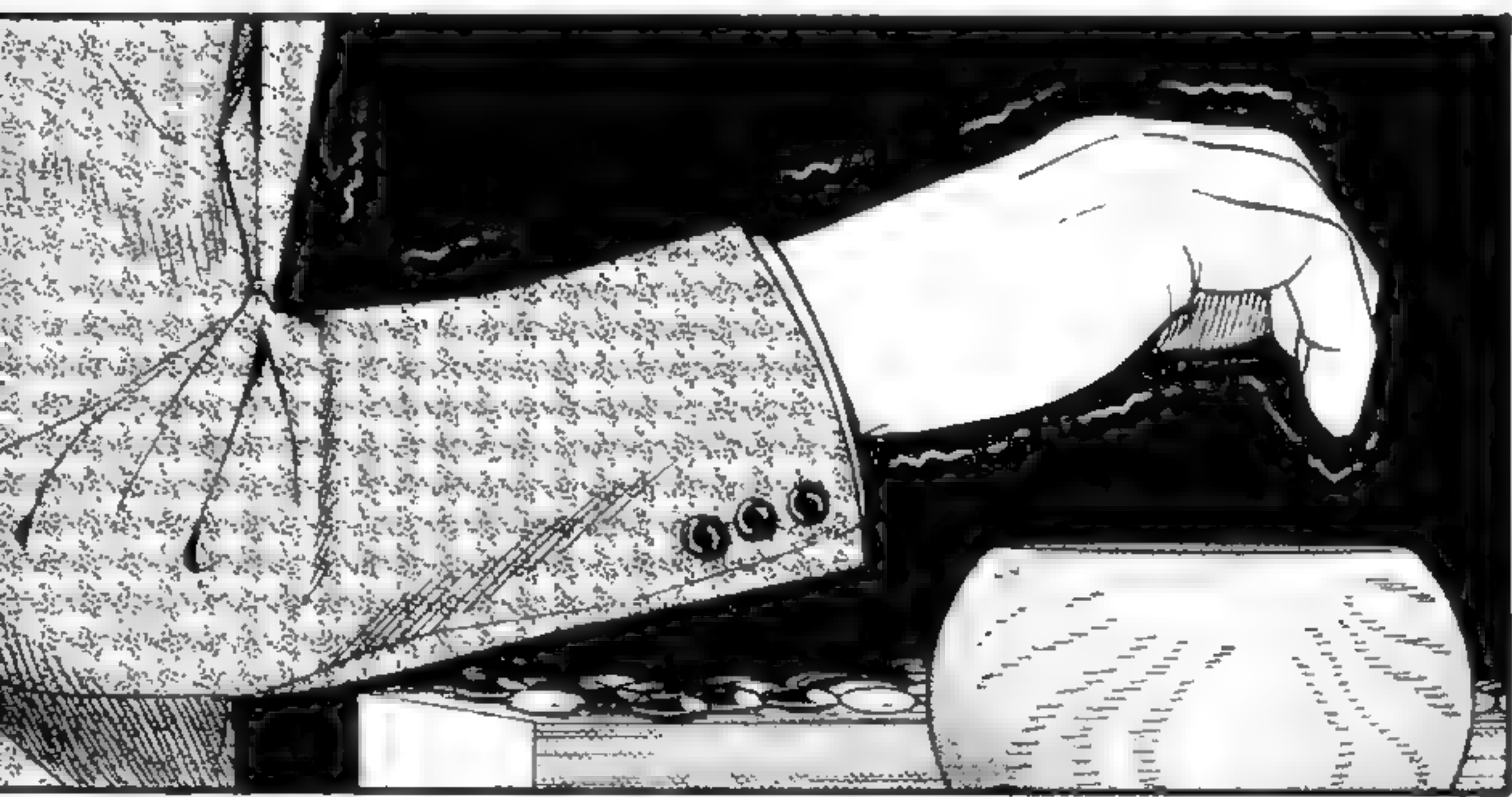




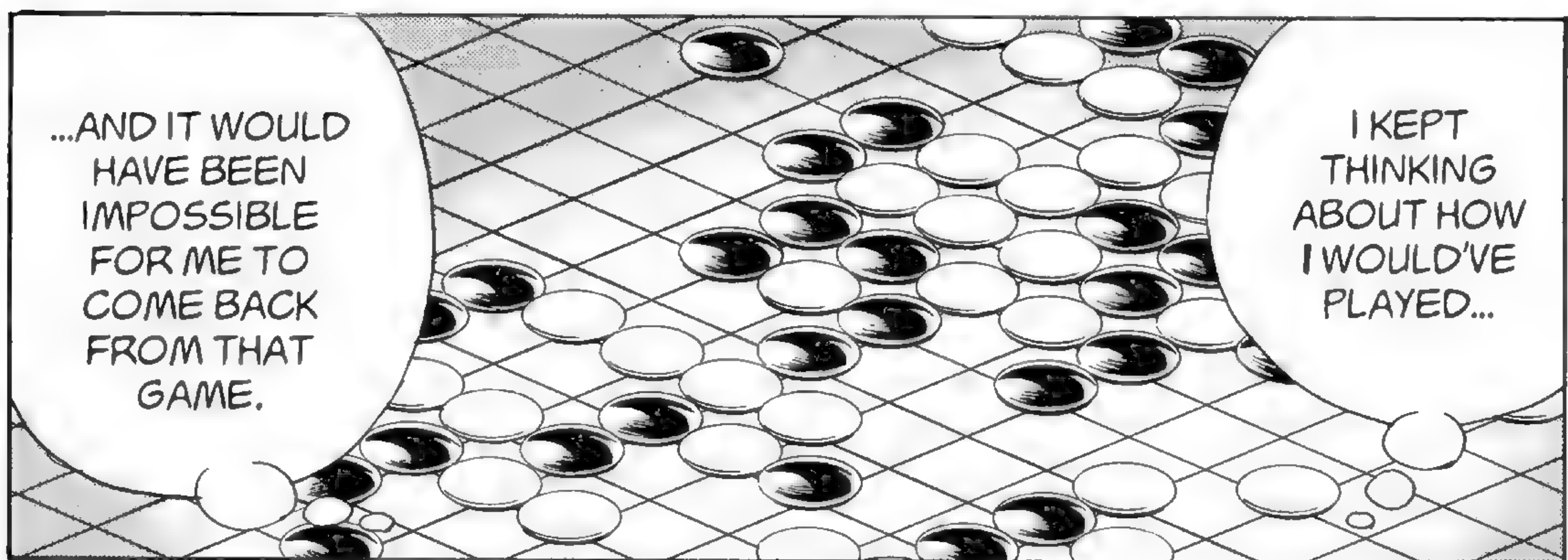
































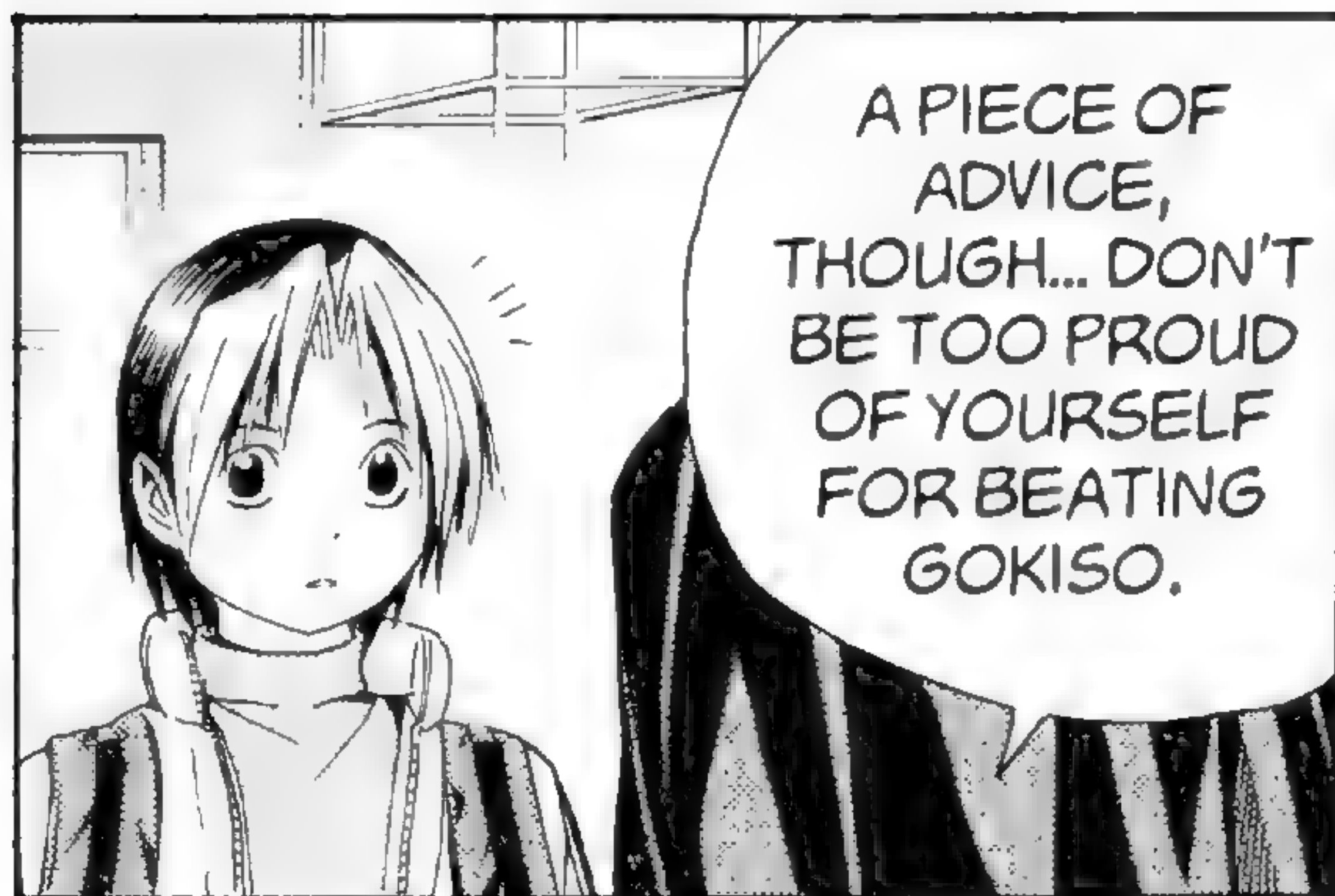










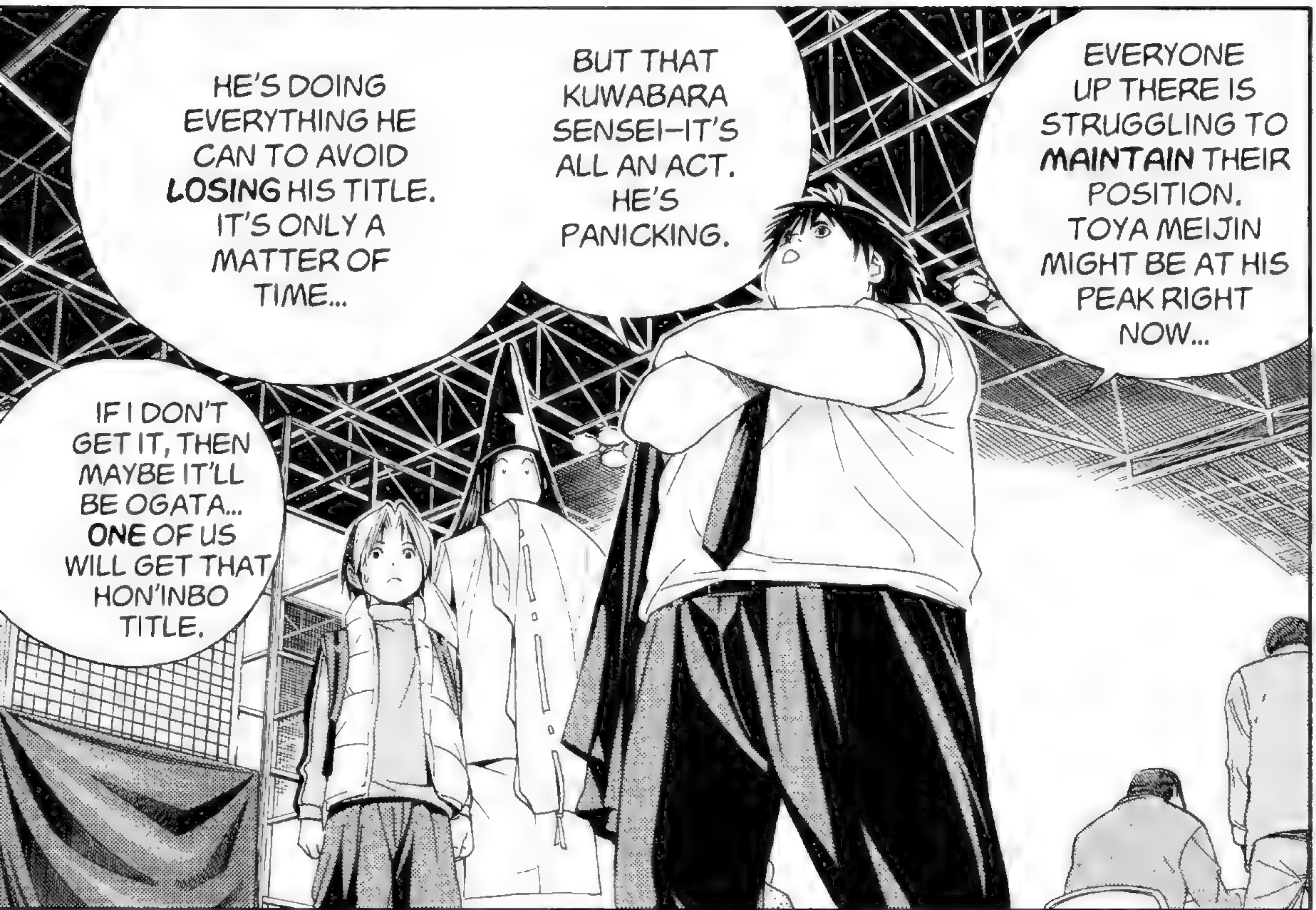






BUT I'M TELLING  
YOU... IT'S NOT SO  
DIFFICULT TO  
TAKE DOWN THE  
ONES AT THE  
TOP.

TIME  
WILL  
TELL...



HE'S DOING  
EVERYTHING HE  
CAN TO AVOID  
LOSING HIS TITLE.  
IT'S ONLY A  
MATTER OF  
TIME...

BUT THAT  
KUWABARA  
SENSEI-IT'S  
ALL AN ACT.  
HE'S  
PANICKING.

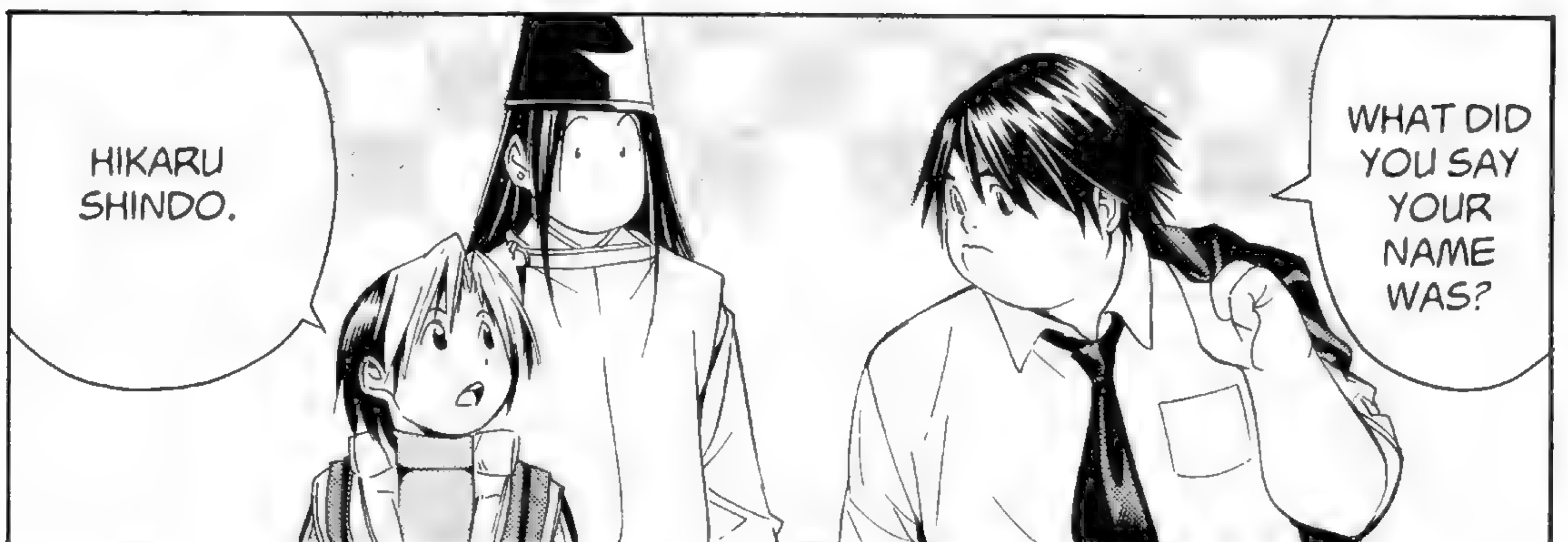
EVERYONE  
UP THERE IS  
STRUGGLING TO  
MAINTAIN THEIR  
POSITION.  
TOYA MEIJIN  
MIGHT BE AT HIS  
PEAK RIGHT  
NOW...

IF I DON'T  
GET IT, THEN  
MAYBE IT'LL  
BE OGATA...  
ONE OF US  
WILL GET THAT  
HON'INBO  
TITLE.

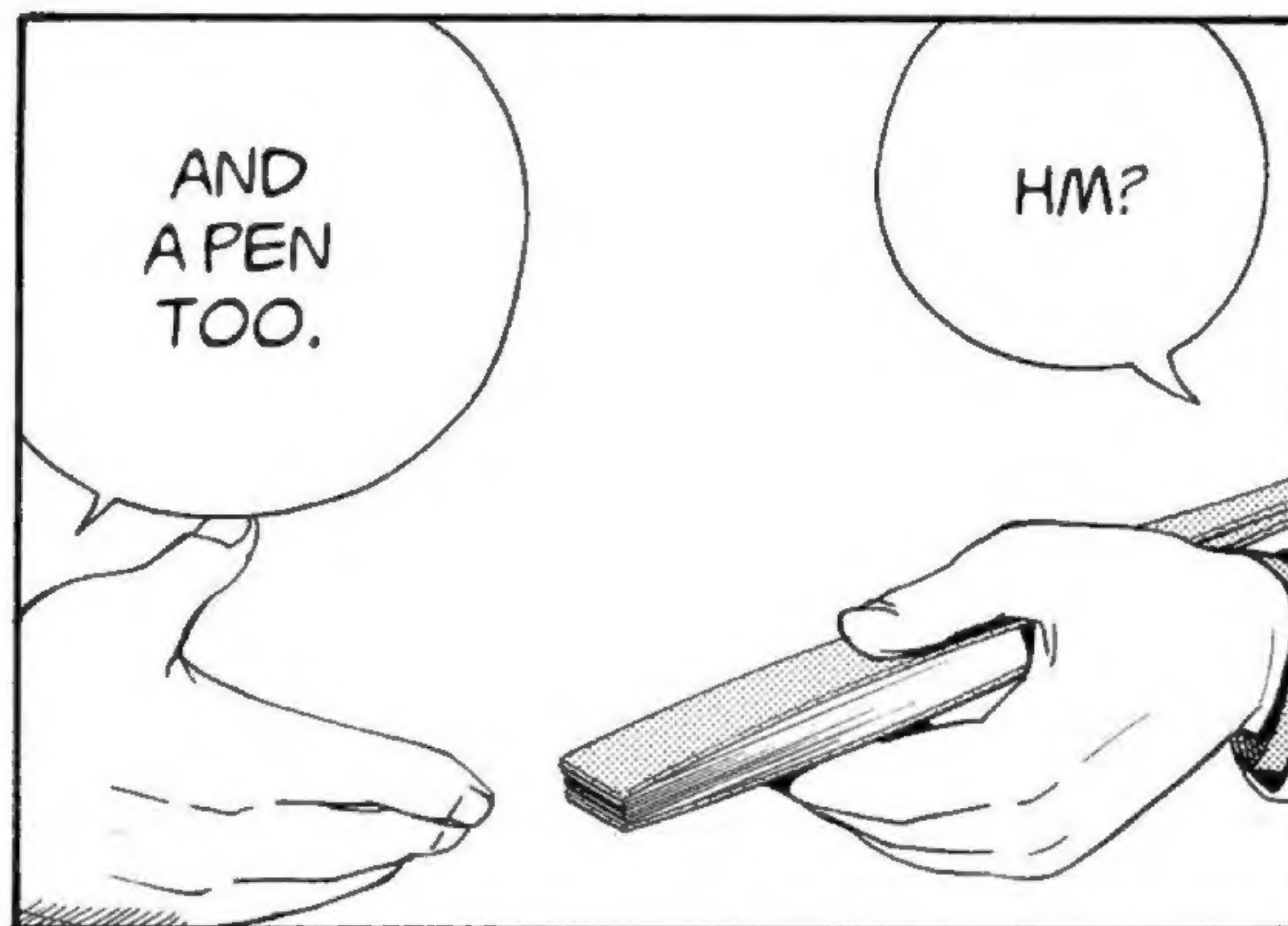
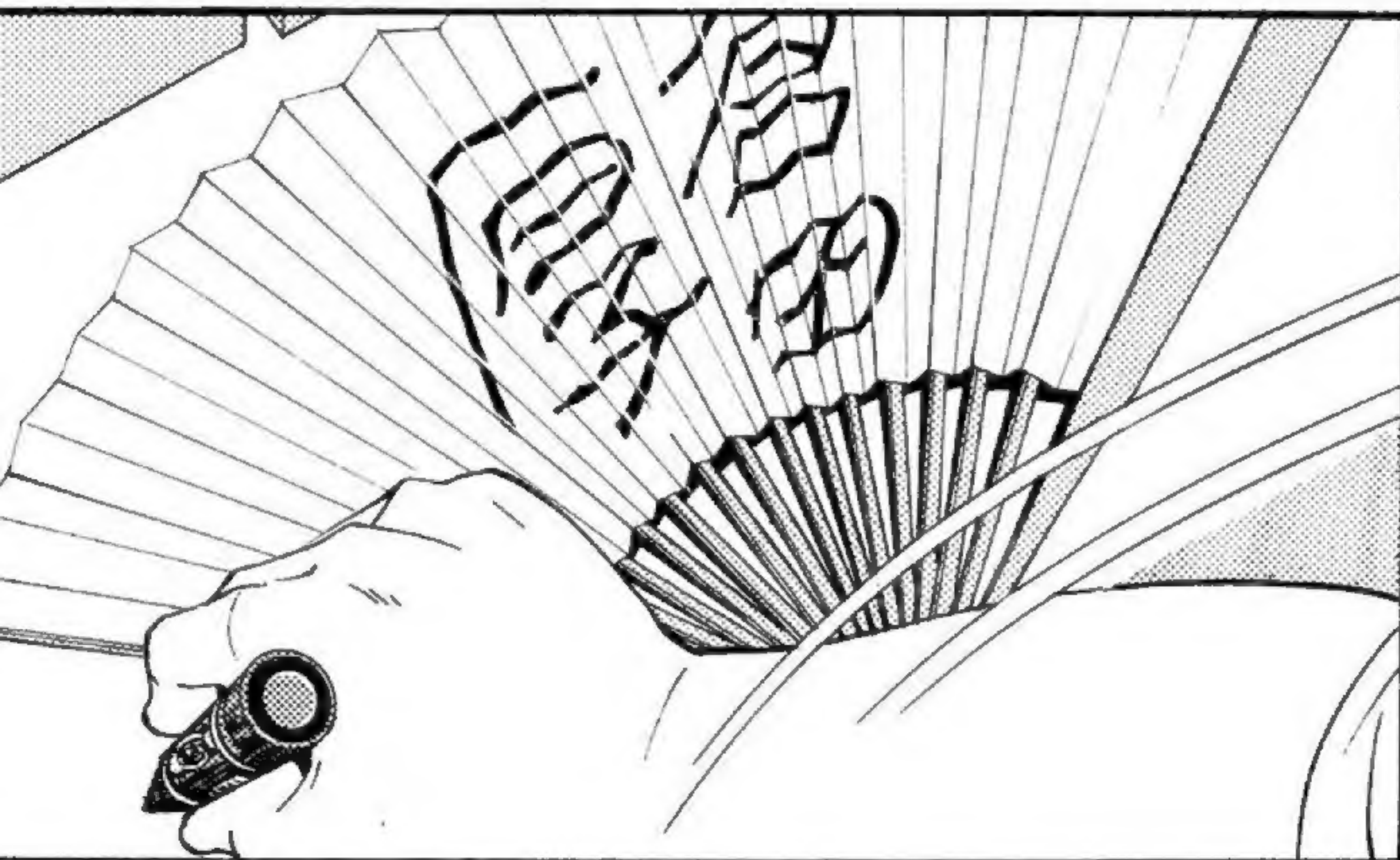


PERSONALLY,  
I'M MORE  
AFRAID OF  
THE PLAYERS  
WHO ARE  
UNDER ME.



















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